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THE DOCTRINE

AND

DISCIPLINE

OF

THE METHODIST CHURCH

1902.

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Part I.

THE CHURCH.

DOCTRINE AND DISCIPLINE

OF

THE METHODIST CHURCH.

CHAPTER I.

DOCTRINES AND GENERAL RULES.

SECTION I.

STANDARDS OF DOCTRINE.

1. The Doctrines of the Methodist Church are declared to be those contained in the twenty-five Articles of Religion, and those taught by the Rev. John Wesley, M.A., in his Notes on the New Testament, and in the first fifty-two Sermons of the first series of his discourses, published during his lifetime.

ARTICLES OF RELIGION.

I. *Of Faith in the Holy Trinity.*

2. There is but one living and true God, everlasting, without body or parts, of infinite power, wisdom and good-

ness; the maker and preserver of all things, visible and invisible. And in unity of this Godhead there are three persons, of one substance, power and eternity, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

II. *Of the Word, or Son of God, who was made very man.*

3. The Son, who is the Word of the Father, the very and eternal God, of one substance with the Father, took man's nature in the womb of the blessed Virgin; so that two whole and perfect natures, that is to say, the Godhead and manhood, were joined together in one person, never to be divided, whereof is one Christ, very God and very man, who truly suffered, was crucified, dead, and buried, to reconcile His Father to us, and to be a sacrifice, not only for original guilt, but also for the actual sins of men.

III. *Of the Resurrection of Christ.*

4. Christ did truly rise again from the dead, and took again His body, with all things appertaining to the perfection of man's nature, wherewith He ascended into heaven, and there sitteth until He return to judge all men at the last day.

IV. *Of the Holy Ghost.*

5. The Holy Ghost, proceeding from the Father and the Son, is of one substance, majesty, and glory with the Father and the Son, very and eternal God.

V. *The Sufficiency of the Holy Scriptures for Salvation.*

6. The Holy Scriptures contain all things necessary to salvation; so that whatsoever is not read therein, nor may

be proved thereby, is not to be required of any man that it should be believed as an article of faith, or be thought requisite or necessary to salvation. In the name of the Holy Scripture we do understand those canonical books of the Old and New Testament of whose authority was never any doubt in the Church. The names of the canonical books are—Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, The First Book of Samuel, The Second Book of Samuel, The First Book of Kings, The Second Book of Kings, The First Book of Chronicles, The Second Book of Chronicles, The Book of Ezra, The Book of Nehemiah, The Book of Esther, The Book of Job, The Psalms, The Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, or the Preacher, Canticles, or Songs of Solomon, Four Prophets the greater, Twelve Prophets the less.

All the books of the New Testament, as they are commonly received, we do receive and account canonical.

VI. *Of the Old Testament.*

¶. The Old Testament is not contrary to the New; for both in the Old and New Testament everlasting life is offered to mankind by Christ, who is the only Mediator between God and man. Wherefore they are not to be heard who feign that the old fathers did look only for transitory promises. Although the law given from God by Moses, as touching ceremonies and rites, doth not bind Christians, nor ought the civil precepts thereof of necessity to be received in any commonwealth; yet, notwithstanding, no Christian whatsoever is free from the obedience of the commandments which are called moral.

VII. *Of Original or Birth Sin.*

8. Original sin standeth not in the following of Adam, (as the Pelagians do vainly talk) but it is the corruption of the nature of every man, that naturally is engendered of the offspring of Adam, whereby man is very far gone from original righteousness, and of his own nature inclined to evil, and that continually.

VIII. *Of Free Will.*

9. The condition of man after the fall of Adam is such that he cannot turn and prepare himself, by his own natural strength and works, to faith, and calling upon God; wherefore we have no power to do good works, pleasant and acceptable to God, without the grace of God by Christ preventing us, that we may have a good will, and working with us, when we have that good will.

IX. *Of the Justification of Man.*

10. We are accounted righteous before God only for the merit of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ by faith, and not for our own works or deservings. Wherefore, that we are justified by faith only, is a most wholesome doctrine, and very full of comfort.

X. *Of Good Works.*

11. Although good works, which are the fruits of faith, and follow after justification, cannot put away our sins, and endure the severity of God's judgments; yet are they pleasing and acceptable to God in Christ, and spring out of

a true and lively faith, insomuch that by them a lively faith may be as evidently known as a tree is discerned by its fruit.

XI. *Of Works of Supererogation.*

12. Voluntary works—besides, over, and above God's commandments—which are called works of supererogation, cannot be taught without arrogancy and impiety. For by them men do declare that they do not only render unto God as much as they are bound to do, but that they do more for his sake than of bounden duty is required; whereas Christ saith plainly, When ye have done all that is commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants.

XII. *Of Sin after Justification.*

13. Not every sin willingly committed after justification is the sin against the Holy Ghost, and unpardonable. Wherefore, the grant of repentance is not to be denied to such as fall into sin after justification: after we have received the Holy Ghost, we may depart from grace given, and fall into sin, and, by the grace of God, rise again and amend our lives. And therefore they are to be condemned who say they can no more sin as long as they live here; or deny the place of forgiveness to such as truly repent.

XIII. *Of the Church.*

14. The visible Church of Christ is a congregation of faithful men, in which the pure word of God is preached, and the sacraments duly administered, according to Christ's ordinance, in all those things that of necessity are requisite to the same.

XIV. *Of Purgatory.*

15. The Romish doctrine concerning purgatory, pardon, worshipping, and adoration, as well of images as of relics, and also invocation of saints, is a fond thing, vainly invented, and grounded upon no warrant of Scripture, but repugnant to the word of God.

XV. *Of Speaking in the Congregation in such a Tongue as the People understand.*

16. It is a thing plainly repugnant to the word of God, and the custom of the primitive Church, to have public prayer in the Church, or to minister the sacraments, in a tongue not understood by the people.

XVI. *Of the Sacraments.*

17. Sacraments ordained of Christ are not only badges or tokens of Christian men's profession, but rather they are certain signs of grace, and God's good-will towards us, by the which he doth work invisibly in us, and doth not only quicken, but also strengthen and comfort our faith in him.

There are two sacraments ordained of Christ our Lord in the Gospel; that is to say, Baptism and the Supper of the Lord.

Those five commonly called sacraments, that is to say, confirmation, penance, orders, matrimony, and extreme unction, are not to be counted for sacraments of the Gospel; being such as have partly grown out of the corrupt following of the apostles, and partly are states of life allowed in the Scriptures, but yet have not the like nature of Baptism and

the Lord's Supper, because they have not any visible sign or ceremony ordained of God.

The sacraments were not ordained of Christ to be gazed upon, or to be carried about; but that we should duly use them. And in such only as worthily receive the same, they have a wholesome effect or operation: but they that receive them unworthily, purchase to themselves condemnation, as Saint Paul saith, 1 Cor. xi. 29.

XVII. *Of Baptism.*

18. Baptism is not only a sign of profession, and mark of difference, whereby Christians are distinguished from others that are not baptized; but it is also a sign of regeneration, or the new birth. The baptism of young children is to be retained in the Church.

XVIII. *Of the Lord's Supper.*

19. The Supper of the Lord is not only a sign of the love that Christians ought to have among themselves one to another, but rather is a sacrament of our redemption by Christ's death; insomuch that to such as rightly, worthily, and with faith receive the same, the bread which we break is a partaking of the body of Christ; and likewise the cup of blessing is a partaking of the blood of Christ.

Transubstantiation, or the change of the substance of bread and wine in the Supper of our Lord, cannot be proved by Holy Writ, but is repugnant to the plain words of Scripture, overthroweth the nature of a sacrament, and hath given occasion to many superstitions.

The body of Christ is given, taken, and eaten in the

Supper, only after a heavenly and spiritual manner. And the means whereby the body of Christ is received and eaten in the Supper, is faith.

The sacrament of the Lord's Supper was not by Christ's ordinance reserved, carried about, lifted up, or worshipped.

XIX. *Of Both Kinds.*

20. The cup of the Lord is not to be denied to the lay people; for both the parts of the Lord's Supper, by Christ's ordinance and commandment, ought to be administered to all Christians alike.

XX. *Of the One Oblation of Christ, finished upon the Cross.*

21. The offering of Christ once made, is that perfect redemption, propitiation, and satisfaction for all the sins of the whole world, both original and actual; and there is none other satisfaction for sin but that alone. Wherefore the sacrifice of the mass, in which it is commonly said that the priest doth offer Christ for the quick and the dead, to have remission of pain or guilt, is a blasphemous fable and dangerous deceit.

XXI. *Of the Marriage of Ministers.*

22. The ministers of Christ are not commanded by God's law either to vow the estate of single life, or to abstain from marriage: therefore it is lawful for them, as for all other Christians, to marry at their own discretion, as they shall judge the same to serve best to godliness.

XXII. *Of the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church.*

23. It is not necessary that rites and ceremonies should in all places be the same, or exactly alike; for they have always been different, and may be changed according to the diversity of countries, times, and men's manners, so that nothing be ordained against God's word. Whosoever, through his private judgment, willingly and purposely doth openly break the rites and ceremonies of the Church to which he belongs, which are not repugnant to the word of God, and are ordained and approved by common authority, ought to be rebuked openly, that others may fear to do the like, as one that offendeth against the common order of the Church, and woundeth the consciences of weak brethren.

Every particular Church may ordain, change, or abolish rites and ceremonies, so that all things may be done to edification.

XXIII. *Of the Civil Government.*

24. We believe it is the duty of all Christians to be subject to the powers that be; for we are commanded by the word of God to respect and obey the Civil Government: we should therefore not only fear God, but honour the King.

XXIV. *Of Christian Men's Goods.*

25. The riches and goods of Christians are not common, as touching the right, title, and possession of the same, as some do falsely boast. Notwithstanding, every man ought, of such things as he possesseth, liberally to give alms to the poor, according to his ability.

XXV. *Of a Christian Man's Oath.*

26. As we confess that vain and rash swearing is forbidden Christian men by our Lord Jesus Christ and James his apostle; so we judge that the Christian religion doth not prohibit, but that a man may swear when the magistrate requireth, in a cause of faith and charity, so it be done according to the prophet's teaching, in justice, judgment and truth.

Section II.

The Origin, Design, and General Rules of our United Societies.

27. In the latter end of the year 1739, eight or ten persons came to Mr. Wesley in London, who appeared to be deeply convinced of sin, and earnestly groaning for redemption. They desired, as did two or three more the next day, that he would spend some time with them in prayer, and advise them how to flee from the wrath to come, which they saw continually hanging over their heads. That he might have more time for this great work, he appointed a day when they might all come together; which from thenceforward they did every week, namely, on *Thursday*, in the evening. To these, and as many more as desired to join with them (for their numbers increased daily), he gave those advices from time to time which he judged most needful for them; and they always concluded their meetings with prayer suited to their several necessities.

28. This was the rise of the UNITED SOCIETIES, first in *Europe* and then in *America*. Such a Society is no other than "*a company of men*, having the form, and seeking the power of *godliness, united in order to pray together, to receive the word of exhortation, and to watch over one another in love, that they may help each other to work out their salvation.*"

29. That it may the more easily be discerned whether they are indeed working out their own salvation, each Society is divided into smaller companies, called classes, according to their respective places of abode. There are about twelve persons in a class, one of whom is styled *The Leader*. It is his duty,—

1. To see each person in his class once a week at least, in order, (*a*) To inquire how their souls prosper. (*b*) To advise, reprove, comfort, or exhort, as occasion may require. (*c*) To receive what they are willing to give towards the support of the Ministers, Church, and poor.

2. To meet the Ministers and Stewards of the Society once a week, in order, (*a*) To inform the Minister of any that are sick, or of any that walk disorderly and will not be reproved. (*b*) To pay the Stewards what they have received of the several classes in the week preceding.

30. There is only one condition previously required of those who desire admission into these Societies, "a desire to flee from the wrath to come, and be saved from their sins." But wherever this is really fixed in the soul, it will be shown by its fruits.

31. It is therefore expected of all who continue therein, that they should continue to evidence their desire of salva-

tion, *First*, By doing no harm, by avoiding evil of every kind, especially that which is most generally practised; such as,—The taking of the name of God in vain; the profaning of the day of the Lord, either by doing ordinary work therein, or by buying or selling; drunkenness, buying or selling spirituous liquors, or drinking them, unless in case of extreme necessity; the buying or selling of men, women, and children, with the intention to enslave them; fighting, quarreling, brawling, brother going to law with brother; returning evil for evil, or railing for railing; the using many words in buying or selling; the buying or selling goods that have not paid the duty; the giving or taking on usury, that is, unlawful interest; uncharitable or unprofitable conversation, particularly speaking evil of magistrates or of ministers; doing to others as we would not they should do unto us; doing what we know is not for the glory of God; as,—The putting on of gold or costly apparel; the taking such diversions as cannot be used in the name of the Lord Jesus; the singing those songs, or reading those books, which do not tend to the knowledge or love of God; softness and needless self-indulgence; laying up treasure upon earth; borrowing without a probability of paying; or taking up goods without a probability of paying for them.

32. It is expected of all who continue in these Societies that they should continue to evidence their desire of salvation, *Secondly*, By doing good; by being in every kind merciful after their power; as they have opportunity, doing good of every possible sort, and as far as possible, to all men: To their bodies, of the ability which God giveth, by

giving food to the hungry, by clothing the naked, by visiting or helping them that are sick or in prison: To their souls, by instructing, reproving, or exhorting all we have any intercourse with; trampling under foot that enthusiastic doctrine, that "we are not to do good, *unless our hearts are free to it:*" By doing good, especially to them who are of the household of faith, or groaning so to be; employing them preferably to others, buying one of another, helping each other in business; and so much the more because the world will love its own and them *only:* By all possible *diligence* and *frugality*, that the Gospel be not blamed: By running with patience the race which is set before them, *denying themselves, and taking up their cross daily;* submitting to bear the reproach of Christ, to be as the filth and offscouring of the world; and looking that men should say *all manner of evil of them falsely for the Lord's sake.*

33. It is expected of all who desire to continue in these Societies that they should continue to evidence their desire of salvation, *Thirdly*, By attending upon all the ordinances of God; such as,—The public worship of God; the ministry of the word, either read or expounded; the Supper of the Lord; family and private prayer; searching the Scriptures; fasting or abstinence.

34. These are the General Rules of our Societies; all of which we are taught of God to observe, even in his written word, *which is the only rule, and the sufficient rule, both of our faith and practice.* And all these we know his Spirit writes on truly awakened hearts. If there be any among us who observes them not, who habitually breaks any of them, let it be known unto them who watch over that soul,

as they who must give an account. We will admonish him of the error of his ways. We will bear with him for a season. But if then he repent not, he hath no more place among us. We have delivered our own souls.

35. NOTE: The General Rules are to be understood as forbidding neglect of duties of any kind, imprudent conduct, indulging in sinful tempers or words, the buying, selling or using intoxicating liquors as a beverage, dancing, playing at games of chance, encouraging lotteries, attending theatres, horse-races, circuses, dancing parties, patronizing dancing-schools, taking such other amusements as are obviously of a misleading or questionable moral tendency, and all acts of disobedience to the Order and Discipline of the Church.

SECTION III.

Baptism.

36. The proper subjects for baptism are infants, and believing adults who have not been baptized in infancy.

37. The mode of baptism is by sprinkling or pouring; but should any candidates for baptism prefer another mode, the officiating minister may comply with their request. Wherever practicable let the ordinance be administered in the public congregation. Let the minister, when receiving persons on probation for membership, particularly inquire whether they have been baptized, and if not, let that rite be administered as soon as practicable.

Section IV.

The Lord's Supper.

38. Let those persons that do not desire to receive the Lord's Supper kneeling, receive it either sitting or standing.

39. Let no person who is not a member of our Church be habitually admitted to the Lord's Supper without examination, and some token given by the minister. The minister may issue membership cards prior to Communion services, which cards may be distributed in the classes, or by a visitor appointed for that purpose, and collected at the Communion service. The pastor may keep a Communion roll, marking present all whose cards are thus returned on Communion Sunday.

40. No person shall be admitted to the Lord's Supper among us who is guilty of any practice for which we would exclude a member of our Church.

In the public administration of the Lord's Supper non-alcoholic wines shall be used wherever possible.

Section V.

On Marriage.

41. Members of our Church sometimes marry with careless, *unawakened* persons. This has produced bad effects; they have either been hindered for life, or have turned back to perdition. To discourage this practice let every minister enforce the Apostle's caution,—"Be ye

not unequally yoked together with unbelievers" (2 Cor. vi. 14); and let them exhort all to take no step in so weighty a matter without earnest prayer to God and consultation with judicious Christian friends.

42. We do not prohibit our people from marrying persons who are not of our Church, provided such persons have the form and are seeking the power of godliness; but we are determined to discourage their marrying persons who do not come up to this description.

43. In general, no young woman should marry without the consent, much less without the knowledge, of her parents or natural guardians. Nevertheless, there may be exceptional cases, as when they refuse to allow her to marry at all; or when they refuse to allow her to marry any Christian. But even in such cases she should seriously consult with those competent to give godly counsel.

Section VI.

On Dress.

44. While the New Testament gives no specific directions in regard to dress, yet its spirit is manifestly against the use of costly or gaudy apparel, and the wearing of needless ornaments; therefore, let all our ministers discourage in the Church whatever, in this respect, is contrary to Christian simplicity; and in order to do this, let them read the thoughts upon dress at least once a year, in every society where such counsels seem to be needed.

CHAPTER II.

THE MINISTRY.

Section I.

Of the examination of those who think they are moved by the Holy Ghost to preach.

45. In order that we may try those who profess to be moved by the Holy Ghost to preach, let the following questions be asked, namely :—

1. Do they know God as a pardoning God? Have they the love of God abiding in them? Do they desire nothing but God? And are they holy in all manner of conversation?

2. Have they gifts as well as grace for the work? Have they a clear, sound understanding; a right judgment in the things of God; a just conception of salvation by faith? And has God given them an acceptable way of speaking? Do they speak justly, readily, clearly?

3. Have they fruit? Are any truly convinced of sin, and converted to God by their preaching?

46. As long as these three marks concur in any one, we believe he is called of God to preach. These we receive as sufficient proof that he is moved by the Holy Ghost.

47. With the consent of the Local Preachers' Meeting or of the Quarterly Official Board, the Superintendent of the Circuit may license such persons to exhort. After sufficient proof of their gifts and usefulness they may be further received as Local Preachers on probation, and on

expiration of three months' probation, should their examination by the Local Preachers' Meeting, or Quart rly Official Board, be satisfactory, they shall receive license as Local Preachers.

Section II.

Of Rules of Conduct for a Minister or Probationer for the Ministry.

48. *Rule* 1. Be diligent. Never be unemployed; never be triflingly employed; never trifle away time, neither spend any more time at any place than is strictly necessary.

49. *Rule* 2. Be serious. Let your motto be "*Holiness to the Lord.*" Avoid all lightness, jesting, and foolish talking.

50. *Rule* 3. Converse sparingly, and conduct yourselves prudently, with women. (1 Tim. v. 2.)

51. *Rule* 4. Take no steps towards marriage without first consulting with your brethren.

52. *Rule* 5. Believe evil of no one without good evidence; unless you see it done, take heed how you credit it. Put the best construction on everything. You know the judge is always supposed to be on the prisoner's side.

53. *Rule* 6. Speak evil of no one; because your word, especially, would eat as doth a canker. Keep your thoughts within your own breast till you come to the person concerned.

54. *Rule* 7. Tell every one under your care what you think wrong in his conduct and temper, and that lovingly

and plainly, as soon as may be, else it will fester in your heart. Make all haste to cast the fire out of your bosom.

55. *Rule* 8. Avoid all affectation. A preacher of the Gospel is the servant of all.

56. *Rule* 9. Be ashamed of nothing but sin.

57. *Rule* 10. Be punctual. Do everything exactly at the time. And do not mend our rules, but keep them; not for wrath, but conscience' sake.

58. *Rule* 11. You have nothing to do but to save souls, therefore spend and be spent in this work; and go always, not only to those that want you, but to those that want you most.

Observe! it is not only your business to preach so many times, and to take care of this or that Society, but to save as many as you can; to bring as many sinners as you can to repentance, and, with all your power, to build them up in that holiness without which they cannot see the Lord. And remember! a Methodist preacher is to mind every point, great and small, in the Methodist Discipline! Therefore you will need to exercise all the sense and grace you have.

59. *Rule* 12. Act in all things, not according to your own will, but as a son in the Gospel. As such, it is your duty to employ your time in the manner which we direct; in preaching and visiting from house to house; in reading, meditation and prayer. Above all, if you labor with us in the Lord's vineyard, it is needful you should do that part of the work which we advise, at those times and places which we judge most for His glory.

60. Smaller advices which might be of use to us are perhaps these: 1. Be sure never to disappoint a congregation. 2. Begin at the time appointed. 3. Let your whole deportment be serious, weighty, and solemn. 4. Always suit your subject to your audience. 5. Choose the plainest text you can. 6. Take care not to ramble, but keep to your text, and make out what you take in hand. 7. Take care of anything awkward or affected, either in your gestures, phrase, or pronunciation. 8. Do not usually pray *extempore* above eight or ten minutes (at most) without intermission. 9. Frequently read and enlarge upon a portion of Scripture: and let young preachers often exhort without taking a text. 10. Always avail yourself of the great festivals by preaching on the occasion.

Section III.

The duty of Ministers and Probationers—Matter and manner of preaching—Visiting from house to house.

61. The duty of a minister or probationer is,—1. To preach; 2. To meet the Societies and Classes; 3. To visit the sick.

62. A minister or probationer shall be qualified for his charge by walking closely with God, and having His work greatly at heart, and by understanding and loving discipline, ours in particular.

63. A minister or probationer should use all the means of grace himself, and urge the use of them on others, such as:

1. *Prayer*—private, family, and public; consisting of deprecation, petition, intercession, and thanksgiving.

2. *Searching the Scriptures.*

3. *The Lord's Supper.*

4. *Fasting and Abstinence.*

5. *Christian Conference.*

Ministers should manifest an interest in the spiritual welfare of each other, by speaking freely to each other upon the subject of personal religion. They should take great care not to despise each other's gifts, or speak lightly of each other, defending each other's character in everything, as far as is consistent with truth.

64. The best general method of preaching is,—1. To convince; 2. To offer Christ; 3. To invite; 4. To build up: And to do this in some measure in every sermon.

65. The most effectual way of preaching Christ is to preach Him in all His offices; and to declare His law, as well as His Gospel, both to believers and unbelievers. Let us strongly and closely insist upon inward and outward holiness in all its branches.

66. It is by no means advisable for us to preach in as many places as we can without forming any Societies.

We should endeavor to preach most,—1. Where there is the greatest number of quiet and willing hearers; 2. Where there is most fruit.

We ought diligently to observe in what places God is pleased at any time to pour out His Spirit more abundantly, and at that time to send more laborers than usual into that part of the harvest.

67. We can further assist those under our care by instructing them in their own houses.

Family religion is wanting in many homes. What avails public preaching alone? We must, yea, every minister and every probationer must instruct the people from house to house. Let this be done, and that in good earnest.

Section IV.

The Election and Ordination of Ministers, and their Duties.

68. A minister is constituted by election of the Annual Conference, and by laying on of the hands of those duly appointed thereto.

69. The duties of a minister are,—

1. To conduct all parts of Divine worship.

2. To administer Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

3. To solemnize Matrimony, and in general to perform all the work of a Christian minister.

70. No minister who ceases to travel without the consent of the Annual Conference, certified under the hand of the President, except in case of sickness, debility, or other unavoidable circumstances, shall, on any account, exercise the peculiar functions of his office, or even be allowed to preach among us; nevertheless, the final determination in all such cases is with the Annual Conference.

71. After approval of the Annual Conference, a General Superintendent, with the President of the Annual Conference, may issue a commission, to which the seal of the Conference shall be attached, to authorize a minister of the Church to ordain, according to our form of ordination, such missionary or missionaries as may be stationed in distant parts of our work.

Section V.

The Reception of Ministers from other Churches.

72. Ministers who offer to unite with us from other Christian Churches may be received in the following manner:—

1. If they come to us with proper testimonials from any accredited Methodist Church, they may be received according to such credentials, provided they give satisfaction to the Annual Conference of their willingness to conform to our Church government and usages.

2. Candidates for the ministry from other Evangelical denominations may be received as candidates for our ministry, provided they give satisfaction that they are suitable persons to exercise the office; and that they believe in the doctrines and approve of the discipline, government and usages of our Church. The Chairman and any two ministers (members of the Conference) of the District within the bounds of which any such candidate may be travelling or resident, are authorized to act as a committee on behalf of the Annual Conference, to admit him into our Church; and he may be employed until the ensuing Annual Conference; and if he be recommended by an annual District Meeting, he may be received as a probationer for the ministry.

3. Ministers of other Evangelical Churches who may desire to unite with our Church may be received according to our usages, on condition of their taking upon them our ordination vows when required, without the re-imposition of hands, giving satisfaction to an Annual Conference of

their being duly ordained ministers, and of their agreement with us in doctrine, discipline, government and usages.

73. Whenever any such minister shall be received, he shall be furnished with a certificate signed by a General Superintendent and President, as follows:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that.....has been received into.....Conference as a minister, he having been ordained to the office of the ministry, according to the usages of the.....Church, of which he has been a minister; and he is hereby authorized to exercise the functions of his office in the Methodist Church so long as his life and conversation are such as become the Gospel of Christ.

Given under our hand and seal at..... this.....day of....., in the year of our Lord.....

.....

CHAPTER III.

THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHURCH.

SECTION I.

Of Receiving Members Into the Church.

74. In order to prevent improper persons from insinuating themselves into the Church:

1. Let no one be received into the Church until such person has been at least three months on probation, and has been recommended by the Leaders' Meeting, or where no such meeting is held, by the Leader. Members in connection with other Evangelical Churches, who make application for admission into our Church, may be received by the Superintendent of the Circuit or Mission as members, when duly accredited, without the usual term of probation.

2. Let none be admitted on probation, nor receive tickets, but those who are recommended by one you know, or until they have met three or four times in class.

3. Read the Rules to them the first time they meet.

SECTION II.

Of the Relation of Baptized Children to the Church.

75. We hold that all children, by virtue of the unconditional benefits of the atonement, are members of the

kingdom of God, and, therefore, graciously entitled to baptism; but as infant baptism contemplates a course of religious instruction and discipline, it is expected of all parents or guardians who present their children for baptism, that they use all diligence in bringing them up in conformity to the Word of God; and they should be solemnly admonished of this obligation, and earnestly exhorted to faithfulness therein.

76. We regard all children who have been baptized as placed in visible covenant relation to God, and under the special care and supervision of the Church; therefore, let every Superintendent urge upon all parents in his congregation the duty and importance of presenting their children to God in the ordinance of baptism, and keep a register of such Baptisms in a Baptismal Register to be provided and kept in connection with each Circuit.

77. As soon as the children shall have attained an age sufficient to understand, let them be taught the nature, design and obligations of their baptism, and the truths of religion necessary to make them wise unto salvation; let our Catechisms be placed in their hands, and let all who can, read and commit the same to memory; let them be encouraged to attend class, and to give regular attendance upon all the means of grace, according to their age, capacity and religious experience. Pray earnestly for them, and talk with them at every suitable opportunity.

78. As far as practicable, it shall be the duty of every Superintendent to obtain the names of the children of his congregation, to form them into catechumen classes for the purpose of giving them religious instruction, to instruct

them regularly himself, as his other duties will allow; to appoint a suitable Leader for each class, who shall instruct them in his absence, and leave for his successor a correct list of each class, with the name of its Leader, and make returns of the same, in a separate column, to the Annual District Meeting. It is understood, however, that they shall not necessarily be included in the column headed, "Total membership of the Church."

79. Whenever a baptized child shall, by orphanage or otherwise, become deprived of Christian guardianship, the Superintendent shall ascertain and report to the Leaders' Meeting the facts in the case; and such provision shall be made for the Christian training of the child as the circumstances may admit and require.

CHAPTER IV.

MEANS OF GRACE.

SECTION I.

Public Worship.

80. For the establishment of uniformity in public worship among us on the Lord's day:—

1. Let the morning service consist of (1) Doxology; (2) Invocation; (3) Hymn; (4) Prayer; (5) Anthem or Hymn; (6) a Scripture lesson out of the Old and one out of the New Testament—the minister and congregation

may read a portion responsively, and when not read responsively the Revised Version may be used; (7) Hymn; (8) Sermon; (9) Prayer; (10) Collection; (11) Hymn; (12) Benediction. At the close of the service let the congregation bow in silent prayer.

2. The same order shall be observed in the afternoon and evening services, except that one lesson shall suffice.

3. Let the Lord's Prayer also be used on all occasions of public worship in concluding the first prayer, the congregation being recommended to join audibly and heartily, and the Apostolic benediction in dismissing the congregation.

4. In administering the ordinances, let the form in the Discipline be used. Let our own Hymn-Book be used in all the public services.

5. Let the people be earnestly exhorted to take part in the public worship of God—first, in singing; secondly, in prayer, in the scriptural attitude of kneeling.

6. Let the Society be met, at least once a quarter, wherever it is practicable, on the Sabbath day.

Section II.

The Spirit and Manner of Singing.

81. To guard against formality in singing:

1. Choose such hymns as are proper for the occasion, and do not sing too much at once; seldom more than five or six verses.

2. Let the tune be suited to the words, and do not suffer the people to sing too slowly. Exhort every person in the congregation to sing.

3. Frequently remind the people of the importance of this part of religious worship, and exhort them to "sing with the spirit and with the understanding also."

4. Recommend our Tune-Book; and appoint some suitable person to conduct the singing.

5. The singing and all other parts of public worship are under the control and direction of the Superintendent of the Circuit.

SECTION III.

Class Meetings.

82. Let all our members be enrolled in classes, and in order to render our Class Meeting interesting and profitable:

1. Let each Leader be careful to inquire how every soul in his Class prospers; not only how each person observes the outward rules, but how he grows in the knowledge and love of God.

2. Let each Leader converse with the Minister in charge of the Circuit frequently and freely on matters pertaining to his Class.

3. It is the duty of the Superintendent of the Circuit to appoint all the Leaders and Assistant Leaders, and change them when he sees it necessary, but not contrary to the wish of the Class, or without consulting the Leaders' Meeting.

4. Let improper Leaders be removed. See that all the Leaders be not only men of sound judgment, but men truly devoted to God. Observe what Leaders are most

useful; and let them meet the other Classes as often as possible. As a general rule, let no Leader have charge of more than one Class.

5. Let the Superintendent of the Circuit make strict inquiry in the Leaders' Meeting preceding the fourth meeting of the Quarterly Official Board, into the moral character of the Leaders and Assistant Leaders, their punctuality in beginning and ending their Class Meetings in proper time, and whatever relates to their office; and if there be no objections alleged and sustained, they shall continue in office for the year. Where a Leaders' Meeting is not held, its duties shall be performed by the Quarterly Official Board.

6. The Leaders' Meeting shall be composed of the Ministers and Probationers for the Ministry appointed to the Circuit, the Stewards of the Circuit, the Leaders and Assistant Leaders.

Section IV.

Prayer Meetings.

83. Let meetings be held each week for prayer, fellowship, instruction in the Word of God, and spiritual edification.

Section V.

Love-feasts.

84. A Love-feast shall be held in each Circuit and Mission at least once a quarter.

Section VI.

Society Meetings.

85. Society Meetings shall be held once a quarter whenever it is practicable, under the direction of the Superintendent of the Circuit, or his colleague acting under his instruction.

The principal object of the meeting shall be the spiritual edification of the Church, by exhortation on the part of the Minister present, with prayer and other religious exercises. The members shall be faithfully admonished respecting their personal religion and Christian deportment, their closet and family duties, and their attendance upon the public and private means of grace. At these meetings the Rules of Society shall be read, and the representatives to attend the meetings of the Quarterly Official Board may be appointed.

Section VII.

Exclusion for Neglect of the Means of Grace.

86. If any members of the Church repeatedly and without sufficient reason neglect any of the means of grace, such as Class Meeting, Prayer Meeting, Public Worship, the Lord's Supper, the Ordinances of God, let the Superintendent or his Assistant visit and admonish them; if they continue their neglect, let them receive

notice of exclusion; such notice shall state that the member notified may apply within six months to the Leaders' Meeting or Quarterly Official Board to show cause why his name should be continued on the roll of membership, and upon his so appearing and showing cause, if there be promise of amendment let him still be borne with. Nothing herein contained shall deprive the member of his right of trial and appeal.

Part II.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CHURCH.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CHURCH.

CHAPTER I.

THE CONFERENCES.

SECTION I.

The General Conference.

87. The General Conference shall be composed of an equal number of Ministerial and Lay delegates, elected as hereinafter provided, and shall meet quadrennially.

88. 1. The General Conference shall elect from the ministers of the Church, by ballot, without debate, one or more Itinerant General Superintendents, in agreement with the Basis of Union.

2. A General Superintendent elected to the office by a General Conference shall not enter upon his duties as such until the 15th day of May next ensuing, except in the case of an election to fill a vacancy caused by death or disability.

89. Each General Conference shall elect, by ballot, without debate, from among its members, a Secretary, whose duty it shall be to keep a correct record of its proceedings, and to publish the Journals, under the direction of the General Conference. The Secretary so elected may nominate, and the Conference elect, an assistant or assistants.

90. Fifty members of the General Conference shall form a Quorum for the transaction of business

91. A General Superintendent shall preside over all sessions of the General Conference, and over all the Standing Committees of the same; but in case no General Superintendent be present, the General Conference, or the Committees of the General Conference, shall elect, by ballot, without debate, a President, *pro tem.*

Powers of the General Conference.

92. The General Conference only shall have full power to make Rules and Regulations for our Church, under the following limitations and restrictions, viz.:

1. It shall not revoke, alter or change any Article of Religion, nor establish any new standards or rules of doctrine contrary to our existing and established Standards of Doctrine.

2. It shall not destroy the plan of our Itinerant System.

3. It shall not do away with the privileges of our ministers or probationers for the ministry, of trial by a Committee, and of an appeal; neither shall it do away with the privileges of our members of trial before the Society, or by a Committee, and of an appeal.

4. It shall not make any change in the General Rules of our Society, except by a three-fourths majority; and if required by either order of ministry or laity, a two-thirds majority of each order, voting separately

5. No change shall be made in the Basis of Union, affecting constitutional questions, or the rights and privileges of ministry or laity, except by a three-fourths

majority of the General Conference; and if required by either ministry or laity, a two-thirds majority of each order, voting separately.

6. In cases of the foregoing clauses 4 and 5, it is understood that only three-fourths and two-thirds respectively of those present and voting shall be required, provided that the total number present and voting shall not be less than one-half of all the members reported elected.

93. The General Conference, by a vote of two-thirds of its members, shall have power to increase or diminish the number, or alter the boundaries of the several Annual Conferences.

94. There shall be ten Annual Conferences in our work, viz.: Toronto, London, Hamilton, Bay of Quinte, Montreal, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, Manitoba and North-West, and British Columbia, and one Mission Conference, Japan.

Duties of General Superintendents.

95. The General Superintendents shall hold office for eight years, and shall be eligible for re-election.

96. The General Superintendents shall be members and chairmen, *ex officio*, of all Standing Committees and Boards appointed by the General Conference, with the right to vote, but the one presiding shall have a casting vote only.

97. 1. They shall not be stationed, but shall travel at large throughout the Church, and shall have the general oversight of all Church interests and Institutions, and

do all in their power to forward them, and render such service as the General Conference may direct. They shall give special attention to such interests as are connexional in their character, leaving local or conferential matters to the Annual Conference authorities as far as possible. They shall not interfere with the functions of the ministers and other officers of the Church in their prescribed duties.

2. At the request of a Chairman of a District he shall have power to visit any Circuit or Mission with a view of composing and settling any dispute or difficulty which may arise in connection with the work of the Church, or which may threaten the peace or progress of the same.

3. At the request of the Chairman of a District the General Superintendent may preside over the sessions of any District Meeting.

4. The General Superintendent shall have authority to act in the name of the General Conference in all matters not otherwise provided for, when, in his judgment, the subject is not of sufficient importance to require the calling of the General Conference Special Committee or the matter demands instant action; any action under this section to be reported to the next subsequent meeting of the General Conference Special Committee.

98. The General Superintendents shall decide any question of law arising in any of the Committees or Boards over which they preside; but any member of such Committee or Board, or any minister or member whose interests are affected by such decision, shall have the right to appeal to the Court of Appeal.

99. They shall be members of the Annual Conferences to which they belonged at the time of their election to office.

100. They shall not take part in the proceedings of their Annual Conferences any further than their duties as General Superintendents may require.

101. They shall be responsible to the General Conference for all their official acts.

General Conference Special Committee.

102. The General Conference shall appoint a Special Committee of twelve ministers and twelve laymen, on the nomination of the General Superintendent, which shall, in association with the General Superintendent or Superintendents, from one General Conference to another, watch over and guard all the rights and privileges of our Church throughout the Connexion, promote as far as possible the recommendations of the General Conference, consider and decide upon any measure which may seem necessary for the general interests of the Church and could not have been foreseen at the meeting of the General Conference, and adopt such measures for their accomplishment as it may judge expedient. The said Committee shall report to the General Conference.

103. The General Conference Special Committee shall have power to call a special session of the General Conference at any time, which shall be composed of the members of the last regular General Conference, all vacancies having been filled as hereinafter provided.

104. In the event of the death or disability of a General Superintendent, the Secretary of the General Conference, or five members of the Special Committee of the General Conference, shall call together that Committee, when it shall elect a successor, who shall fill the office until the next General Conference.

Duties and Powers of Boards and Committees.

105. When any vacancy occurs during the quadrennium in any Board or Committee of the General Conference, by death, resignation or otherwise, the same shall be filled by the surviving members of such Board or Committee, unless some other provision has been made for filling such vacancy.

106. Any Board or Committee having charge of any fund of the Church may borrow, upon the credit and security of such fund, such sum or sums of money as it may find necessary for the purposes thereof, and may hypothecate, mortgage and pledge so much of the real or personal property held in trust for such fund as may be necessary to secure any sum or sums so borrowed. Any document or documents required therefor may be executed on behalf of the Church by such person or persons as the respective Boards or Committees may direct.

107. The Boards and Committees of the General Conference shall report in detail, quadrennially, the salaries, house rent and other allowances of the heads of departments in connection with the Conference, and the source of payments.

108. All Boards and Standing Committees of the Conference shall, on the first day of the Conference, make a return giving in detail the following information: (1) The number of meetings of the Board or Committee and of each standing sub-committee thereof held during the Quadrennium; (2) the number of meetings attended by each member; (3) the travelling expenses of each member, and (4) the total expense of the holding of such meetings.

109. All Standing Committees and Boards shall present their reports to the General Conference in duplicate.

General Conference Collection.

110. An annual collection shall be made throughout the whole work for the General Conference Fund, and the Annual Conferences shall fix the time when such collection shall be taken up in the churches. A collection for this purpose shall also be taken up in the church in which the General Conference is held, during its sitting. The officers of the General Conference appointed for the purpose shall disburse only the amount on hand for General Conference expenses, leaving each delegate deficient in his expenses by an equally proportionate amount.

SECTION II.

The Court of Appeal.

111. The Court of Appeal shall consist of the General Superintendents and twelve other persons—six ministers

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and six laymen—to be elected by ballot by the General Conference from twelve ministers and twelve laymen, to be nominated by the General Superintendents.

1. The Court shall elect its own Secretary by ballot

2. A majority of those present shall be necessary to render a decision, but such a majority shall not be less than five.

3. The Court shall hear and determine appeals:

(*a*) From decisions of the Presiding Officers of the Annual Conferences on questions of law;

(*b*) From decisions of Presidents of Annual Conferences on questions of law;

(*c*) From decisions of Annual Conferences when they have exceeded their jurisdiction;

(*d*) From decisions of Committees appointed to settle disputes as to boundaries of Annual Conferences, cases of invasion, and the like;

(*e*) From decisions of General Superintendents on questions of law in the Committees and Boards over which they preside;

(*f*) From decisions of Committees and Boards of the General Conference when they have exceeded their jurisdiction;

(*g*) From rulings of the General Superintendent presiding in the General Conference on those questions which require a three fourths and a two-thirds majority, respectively, under the provisions of secs. 4 and 5 of par. 92 of the Discipline, the General Conference may reverse any such decision of the Court of Appeal by a three-fourths majority of those present and voting; providing that the

total number present and voting shall not be less than one-half of all the members reported elected;

(*h*) When any of the above appeals is not from the decision of a General Superintendent, it may be heard and determined by the General Superintendent if the Appellant requests him to do so. If all parties so request, his decision shall be final. If only the Appellant makes such request, the decision shall be final if the decision appealed from is confirmed. The General Superintendent, instead of hearing the appeal, may remit it at once to full Court, and the decision of the latter shall in all cases be final, except as provided in sub-section (*g*) hereof.

4. In case of a dispute between two adjoining Circuits of different Annual Conferences, or between two Conferences, as to boundaries, invasion or the like, the General Superintendent shall endeavor to adjust the difficulty, and, if he cannot do so, he shall select a committee of five ministers or official members, who shall hear and determine the matter as nearly as may be in the matter provided for trial. Either party may appeal from the decision of the Committee to the Court of Appeal, whose decision shall be final and binding upon all parties.

5. No member of the Court of Appeal who is personally interested in an appeal shall sit on the case. When objection is made on this ground, by Appellant or Respondent, the remaining members of the Court shall determine whether he is thus disqualified.

6. Any person or Church court appealing to the Court of Appeal shall have the right to appear before the Court in person, or by representative, to prosecute such appeal.

The same right shall be accorded to the respondent, but in every case such representative shall be an accredited member of the Methodist Church. In any case, instead of appearing in person, or by a qualified representative, either party may forward to the Court of Appeal a written argument on the subject-matter of the appeal, which shall be read before the Court, and be duly considered before the matter is decided.

7. In all cases of appeal, notice shall be given by the party appealing to a General Superintendent, who shall, after notice of appeal, assemble the Court as soon as possible.

8. In all cases of appeal against the action of an Annual Conference, the appeal must be taken within sixty days after the closing of said Conference, and the decision be given before the opening of the next Annual Conference.

9. In all cases unprovided for, the Court shall have power to frame rules of order and procedure for itself.

10. The Court shall keep a full and correct record of its proceedings; such record shall include (*a*) the ruling or decision appealed against; (*b*) the grounds of the appeal; (*c*) the grounds of resisting of the appeal; (*d*) the decision of the Court; (*e*) a summary of the reasons of the decision. The decisions shall be published in the *Guardian* and *Wesleyan* and reported to General Conference.

Section III.

The Committee on Transfers.

112. The Transfer Committee shall be composed of the General Superintendents and the Presidents of the Annual Conferences, except Mission Conferences, and shall meet annually at the call of the General Superintendent.

1. The General Superintendents and Presidents of Conferences concerned shall have authority to initiate correspondence with ministers and circuits with a view of completing arrangements to secure necessary and desirable transfers.

2. All communications from Presidents of Annual Conferences, in relation to tranfers from their Conferences, and from ministers who desire a transfer, shall be sent to each of the General Superintendents not later than the 10th day of March in each year.

3. The General Superintendent shall notify the President of each Annual Conference concerned in the proposed transfer of all proposed or desired transfers to or from his Conference, not later than the 20th day of March in each year, and the President shall immediately notify any member of his Conference affected by such proposed or desired transfer.

4. A proposal to transfer a minister or probationer, who has not requested it, may be made by any member of the Transfer Committee; provided that, in every case, notice of such proposal to transfer be given to the person concerned on or before the 15th day of March in each year,

and that no minister be transferred without his own consent, except by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

5. Whenever a Circuit requests the appointment of a minister from another Conference, the Quarterly Official Board of such Circuit shall pay the moving expenses. Ministers transferred at their own request shall pay their own moving expenses from the place in the Conference from which they remove to the bounds of the Conference into which they move; but in the case of the transfer of a minister who has not requested to be transferred, his moving expenses shall be paid by the General Conference Fund. Those transferred at the request of the Missionary authorities shall receive their moving expenses from the Mission Fund.

6. The Transfer Committee shall have authority to fix the date at which the transfer shall take effect.

7. Each minister or probationer transferred shall be subject to the action of the Stationing Committee, and be under the special charge of the President of the Conference to which he is transferred, until he is stationed.

8. The ultimate claims of any minister or probationer upon the Connexional Funds shall not be prejudiced by his transfer.

9. The Secretary of the Transfer Committee shall, immediately after the rising of the Committee, report to the President of each Annual Conference affected, all transfers to and from his Conference, and the date at which such transfer shall take place.

10. The decisions of the Committee in all cases of transfer shall be final.

11. The General Superintendent, and the Presidents of

the two Conferences concerned, shall have authority to transfer any probationer on the list of reserve to any Conference where a supply is required.

12. The General Superintendent and the Presidents concerned shall have authority to transfer, during the year, any minister from one Conference to another for the purpose of filling a vacancy, provided it be not done without the consent of the minister concerned.

13. In case an emergency arises between the Annual Conferences, making it necessary to transfer a minister to supply the work on any missionary field of the North-West or the Pacific Coast, the General Superintendents, together with the Presidents of any of the Annual Conferences interested, shall have authority to transfer such minister, provided they deem it desirable and such minister is willing to be transferred.

14. The Chairman of a District in which a transferred man has been stationed during the year previous to his transfer, shall report to the President of the Conference to which such minister has been transferred, whether or not in his case the usual disciplinary questions concerning character and standing have been satisfactorily answered; nevertheless this shall not be necessary in cases where the transfer does not take effect until after the usual examination of character in the Conference out of which the transfer is made.

15. At least four married men shall be transferred from the Newfoundland Conference to the other Conferences during the quadrennium, if such men so desire. The men transferred into the Newfoundland Conference shall have the right to return after ten years, if they so desire.

16. Not more than one of the ministers transferred from the Newfoundland Conference shall be transferred into any one Conference without the consent of the President of such Conference.

Section IV.

THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

Ministerial Session of the Annual Conference.

113. The ministerial members of each Annual Conference shall hold a Session (to be called the Ministerial Session) for the business to be transacted by ministers alone, in advance of the meeting of the Annual Conference for general business. Such Session shall be presided over by a General Superintendent or the President, and shall be held at least one day prior to the meeting of the Annual Conference, as may be determined by the previous Annual Conference, or at the call of the President.

114. Should it be found necessary, a special Ministerial Session may be held at any time during the sessions of the Annual Conference.

115. The Ministers of the Annual Conference, in Ministerial Session, shall examine the character and qualifications of all ministers and probationers for the ministry belonging to the Conference, in accordance with the Discipline, and their decisions shall be final, except in cases of appeal on questions of law. They shall have authority to elect into full Connexion and ordain any probationer within

its bounds who has completed his probation and fulfilled all disciplinary requirements; also, to elect to ordination and ordain probationers who have not yet completed these requirements, when the necessities of the work require it.

116. Notwithstanding irregularities or defects in the action of any former Annual Conference respecting the standing of probationers, it shall be competent for any Ministerial Session to review and correct the standing of all probationers, especially as to their studies, during the entire term of their probation, and on the proposal to ordain and receive them into full Connexion; and the President may call the attention of the Ministerial Session to any case in hand and administer therein.

117. When a minister is so unacceptable, inefficient or secular as to be no longer useful in his work, the Ministerial Session may request him to ask a location, and if he refuses to comply, he shall be borne with until the next Annual Session, at which time, if he persist in his refusal, he may, without a former trial, be located by a two thirds vote of the ministers present and voting. Ministers who are located shall not exercise the functions of the ministry of our Church.

118. A pastoral address to the Churches shall be prepared and issued by the Ministerial Session of Conference.

119. A record of the proceedings of the Ministerial Sessions shall be kept by the Secretary, who shall report the same to the Annual Conference, for information and insertion in the Journal of Conference, and not for discussion.

120. *Business of the Ministerial Session.*

The following order shall be observed:

The Presiding Officer shall open the Session with the usual devotional services, and shall then cause the roll of the ministerial members of the Conference to be called.

1. What ministers or probationers have been transferred to or from this Conference?

2. Who are appointed as a Committee on Conference Relations?

3. What superannuated or supernumerary ministers are recommended to be restored to the active work?

4. Who are recommended to a superannuated relation?

5. Who are recommended to be superannuated for one year?

6. Who are recommended to a supernumerary relation?

7. Are there any objections or charges preferred against any of our ministers or probationers?

To this inquiry, each District Secretary shall answer for his District, after which time shall be given to each Chairman to report any charges preferred between District Meeting and Conference, and to report the progress made in the investigation of such charges.

8. Who have resigned from the ministry of our Church, and are entitled to credentials of standing? No credentials shall be given until all claims in favor of the Educational and other Connexional Funds are settled.

9. Who have withdrawn from our work during the year, and what is the action of the Conference in the case?

10. What probationers are dropped in silence?

11. Who are suspended from the ministry?

12. Who are deposed from the ministry?

13. Who are deposed from the ministry and expelled from the Church?

14. What probationers for the ministry are now received into full Connexion with the Conference and ordained?

15. What probationers for the ministry remain on trial?

(*a*) Who are probationers of four years?

(*b*) Who are probationers of three years?

(*c*) Who are probationers of two years?

(*d*) Who are probationers of one year?

(*e*) Who are probationers on the list of reserve?

(*f*) Who are recommended to be sent to College?

The names of these shall be referred to the Educational Committee for consideration.

16. What candidates for the ministry are now received on trial?

17. What is the report of the Committee on Conference Relations?

18. What is the Report of the Committee on the Pastoral Address?

19. Who are the Committee on the Pastoral Address for next year?

20. Who are the superannuated ministers?

21. Who are the supernumerary ministers?

22. Who are now located?

Section V.

The Annual Conference.

121. Each Annual Conference shall be composed of all ministers within its jurisdiction who have been received into full Connexion, and an equal number of laymen who have been elected as elsewhere provided.

122. 1. Each Annual Conference shall assemble not earlier than the first Wednesday in May, and not later than the last Wednesday in June of each year, and shall within this limitation determine the time and place of its meeting from year to year; provided that any Conference on Foreign Mission fields may assemble as early as the first Wednesday in April.

2. The officers of each Annual Conference shall call the following Conference Committees together, viz., Nominating Committee, Sunday School Committee, Epworth League Committee, Statistical Committee, and Committee on the State of the Work, not later than on the day prior to the opening of the Annual Conference.

123. Each Annual Conference shall elect by ballot, without debate, from among its ministerial members, a President. It shall also elect by ballot, without debate, a Secretary, who shall keep a correct record of the proceedings of the Conference, which shall be signed by the President and the Secretary, and preserved among the documents of the Conference. The Secretary of Conference shall publish the statistical returns as reported from the Districts to Conference, and immediately after Conference shall report the same to the General Conference Statistician.

Duties of Presiding Officers.

124. 1. The General Superintendent, when present, shall open the Annual Conference, and preside during the first day of its sessions, and afterward alternately with the President elected by the Conference. In the absence of a General Superintendent, the President shall take the chair and open the Conference. In association with the President, the General Superintendent shall conduct the ordination service, and they shall jointly sign the ordination parchments. But all other duties pertaining to the presidency of the Annual Conference shall be vested in the President elected by that body, and, in the absence of the General Superintendent, he shall conduct the ordination service.

2. Any question of law arising in the Annual Conference during its sessions shall be determined by the General Superintendent or President presiding, but any member of the Conference may appeal from such decision to the Court of Appeal.

3. The President of an Annual Conference shall also have authority to decide questions of law arising in the Conference Committees over which he presides, but any member of such Committee shall have right to appeal to the Court of Appeal. He shall also, within sixty days from the date of the appeal, hear and determine appeals from the decisions of Chairmen of Districts within the Conference on questions of law, notice of such appeal to be given within thirty days after notice of the decision appealed against.

A written, instead of an oral, argument may be put in, and shall be considered before coming to a decision in the case.

4. Where the President of the Conference is interested in the appeal, either personally or because of having been concerned in any way in the trial appealed from, the appeal may be taken directly to a General Superintendent or to the Court of Appeal.

5. All such decisions and rulings shall be given in writing, and recorded in the Journal of the Annual Conference.

6. On questions of the administration of Discipline, appeals on questions of law, and respecting all other unfinished official business, it shall be the duty of the President of the Annual Conference to administer upon such of the above-named questions as may have been left unsettled by his predecessor in office; and in general the principle of the continuity of the presidential office, from year to year, is hereby affirmed.

125. In the event of the death or disability of the President of an Annual Conference, the last ex-President who is at the time a member of the Conference shall immediately enter upon the duties of the presidency, and discharge them during the continuance of such disability, or to the end of the year; but in case there be no ex-President of such Annual Conference, then the Secretary of such Conference shall call together the Special Committee, who shall elect by ballot a President, who shall continue in office till the ensuing Conference, or during such disability.

Stationing of Ministers.

126. Each Annual Conference shall have a Stationing Committee, composed of the President of the Conference (who shall preside in the Committee), the Chairmen of Districts, and one minister elected by each District meeting. Such election shall be by the joint votes of ministers, probationers and laymen, and shall always be by ballot.

127. Each Annual District Meeting shall elect in addition to their representative to the Stationing Committee one reserve representative, who, in case of sickness or unavoidable absence of the representative, causing his resignation before the first meeting of the Stationing Committee, shall be the legal representative of the District.

128. Each Annual Conference shall station all the ministers and probationers for the ministry within its bounds according to the rules of the Discipline on the Stationing Committee, and it shall have authority to require that all appointments made by the Stationing Committee shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Discipline.

129. The President of the Annual Conference shall be *ex officio* Chairman of the District in which he may be stationed during the year of his presidency.

130. When the stations have been confirmed by the second reading of them to the Conference, the Secretary shall read over successively the names of the ministers stationed in each District, and the Conference shall elect by ballot one of its members so stationed to be Chairman for the ensuing year.

131. Immediately after the election of the Chairman is declared by the President, the Chairman shall nominate a Financial Secretary for his District, and the Conference, if it approves, shall appoint the same.

Election of Delegates to General Conference.

132. Each Annual Conference, at the session next preceding each quadrennial meeting of the General Conference, shall divide into Ministerial and Lay Electoral Conferences, for the purpose of electing delegates; each body electing its own representatives. They shall be elected by ballot from within the jurisdiction of the Annual Conference electing them.

133. The ministerial delegates shall consist of one member for every twelve ministerial members of each Annual Conference; provided, nevertheless, that a fraction of one-half shall entitle a Conference to an additional representative.

134. Each delegate to the General Conference must receive a majority of the votes of the members of the Electoral Conference who may be present and vote, in order to an election.

135. No layman shall be chosen a delegate to the General Conference who is under twenty-five years of age, or who has not been a member of the Church continuously during the five years next preceding his election.

136. Each Electoral Conference, after the election of the number of delegates to which it is entitled, shall further proceed to elect a reserve delegate, and in addition,

one reserve delegate for every ten members, or fraction thereof of one-half, it is entitled to send.

137. The Secretary of each Electoral Conference shall report to the Annual Conference the names of the delegates elected to the General Conference, in the order of their election; and the President and Secretary shall report, as soon as practicable, their names and addresses to the Secretary of the General Conference.

138. When vacancies occur in the delegation before the meeting of the General Conference, by reason of death, resignation or other cause, the reserves of the respective Annual Conference shall have precedence in the order of their election, and be notified thereof by the President of their Annual Conference. When a principal delegate's place has been declared vacant and filled by a reserve, such principal delegate shall not afterwards be permitted to take his place, either during the regular, or an adjourned, or special session of the General Conference. When vacancies have been declared the President of the Annual Conference shall immediately report the same to the Secretary of the General Conference.

139. At the first, second and third Annual Conferences succeeding a General Conference, all vacancies in the delegation, by reason of death, resignation, transfer, or other cause, shall be filled according to the rules in the preceding paragraphs, further ministerial and lay reserve delegates being elected to succeed those who have been taken to fill vacancies, or who have been advanced to a higher place on the list.

Miscellaneous.

140. The lay members of each Annual Conference may hold a special session during the sessions of the Conference, and their proceedings may be reported to the Conference for information and consideration.

141. Each Annual Conference shall have the power to determine the date of the closing of the financial year within its own limits. All accounts and returns for the Conference year shall be closed at the Annual District Meeting.

142. Each Annual Conference may appoint a Board of Trusts which shall, where necessary, acquire, hold and administer property until a local Board of Trustees is appointed in accordance with the Discipline, and to which shall be committed the custody and administration of all bequests, legacies and other gifts (whether real or personal) to the Methodist Church for application to local interests within the jurisdiction of said Conferences, subject to such conditions as may be attached to the said bequests, legacies or gifts by the instruments conveying them, or by the Methodist Church, or by the Annual Conference concerned, and that legislation necessary be obtained.

143. Each Annual Conference shall appoint a Special Committee, consisting of the President and Secretary of Conference, the Chairmen of Districts, and five other member of the Conference, who shall be laymen, to be nominated by the President. This Committee shall have

power to consider and decide upon all matters affecting the Conference, which could not have been provided for at the time of the sitting of the Conference. The Special Committee shall report its proceedings to the next ensuing Annual Conference.

144. Each Annual Conference may appoint a Committee of ministers and laymen to negotiate with any Committee or Committees appointed by any other Evangelical Church, having for their object to so arrange Home mission work within its bounds as to prevent such overlapping as is plainly hurtful to the advance of Christ's kingdom.

Business of the Annual Conference.

145. The business of the ordinary session of the Annual Conference shall proceed in the following order :

1. The Presiding Officer shall open the Conference with the usual devotional services, and shall then call for the names of the laymen reported as elected by the District Meetings ; after which the roll of the members shall be called.

2. The Conference shall then elect by ballot its President, and then its Secretary. The Secretary shall nominate the Conference Statistical Secretary, who shall be Chairman of the Statistical Committee, after which the Conference shall fill any vacancies in the office of Chairmen of Districts.

3. What is the report of the Ministerial Session of the Conference ?

4. What is the report of the Conference Special Committee?

5. What decisions has the President rendered on questions of law during the year?

6. Who compose the several Conference Committees? The Stationing? Sunday Schools? Epworth Leagues: Contingent Fund? Sustentation Fund? Temperance, Prohibition and Moral Reform? Memorials and Miscellaneous Resolutions? Sabbath Observance? Church Property? State of the Work? Nominating? Statistical Returns? Educational?

7. What ministers or probationers for the ministry have died during the year?

8. What probationers are recommended by District Meeting to attend College? and what is the report of the Educational Committee concerning same?

9. Who compose the Board of Examiners for this year?

10. What minister and what layman are appointed on the General Board of Missions for the unexpired part of the current Quadrennium?

11. Who are the Conference Treasurers for the Connexional Funds: General Conference? Contingent? Union Church Relief? Superannuation? Supernumerary? Sustentation? Educational? Missionary? Sunday School Aid? Temperance?

12. Who are elected to fill vacancies in the General Conference delegations?

13. What new Districts, Circuits and Missions have been formed?

14. What changes in relation to church property are now recommended?

15. What is the number of church members, churches, and other places of worship, and attendance on worship on each Circuit and Mission? What is the number of deaths of members, baptisms administered, and of marriages solemnized by each minister?

16. What is the number of ministers, probationers for the ministry, and laymen in the Quarterly Official Boards? Of Sunday Schools? And (at the Conference preceding the General Conference) what Connexional property is returned? These questions shall be answered in accordance with the authorized Conference Schedules.

17. What has been collected on each District for the various Connexional Funds? Have these amounts been remitted at the proper time to the several Treasurers, and paid over to the several claimants?

18. What are the reports of the several Committees?

19. Have the District Sunday School and Epworth League Conventions been held?

20. What further measures can be adopted for the promotion of the work of God within or beyond the bounds of the Conference, and what are the recommendations of the District Meetings on this important subject?

21. Where are the ministers and probationers for the ministry stationed for the ensuing year?

22. Who are the Chairmen of Districts and the Financial Secretaries for the ensuing year?

23. Who compose the Conference Special Committee?

24. Where and when shall the next Conference be held?

Section VI.

The Stationing Committee.

146. 1. The Stationing Committee shall meet, at the call of the President, at the place appointed for holding the Annual Conference, previous to the commencement of its sessions.

2. The Stationing Committee shall meet as often as may be necessary, during the sessions of the Conference, for the revision of the Stations, and any minister shall have the right to appear before the Committee to represent his case in regard to his appointment.

3. Any Quarterly Board interested may also appear by not more than two representatives properly authorized in writing, appointed from among its members at a regular meeting of the Board, or at a meeting of the members of the Board called for this purpose only, by the Superintendent, or two other members of the Board, a majority being present, all having been notified.

4. The first draft of Stations, in printed form, shall be placed on the table of the Conference at the close of the first session, and copies shall be supplied to the members; the second and final draft at any time before the close of the Conference, as the Conference may order. At least one of the Christian names of each minister and probationer shall be published instead of the initials only.

5. The Stationing Committee shall not allow any Minister or Probationer for the ministry to remain more than four years successively on the same circuit or mission

except the General Conference Officers, Superannuated and Supernumerary Ministers, the missionaries to the Indians, Japanese and Chinese, and in the Foreign fields, and such ministers as may be appointed to our Educational Institutions and to the Fred Victor Mission, Toronto; nor shall a Minister after removal be reappointed to a Circuit or Mission within a less interval than four years.

6. On a division of a Circuit, no minister who has travelled successively the three preceding years on such Circuit shall be appointed to either part of it; nevertheless, this rule shall not apply to those places which may be transferred in adjusting the work by the Annual District Meeting, which transfer has been sanctioned by the Stationing Committee.

7. The President of an Annual Conference, and the Chairman and Financial Secretary of each District concerned, shall have authority to change the stations of ministers or probationers in the intervals of Conference, when the interests of the work shall appear to them to demand such change.

8. From among probationers received by the Annual Conferences during the ensuing quadrennium, the Stationing Committees shall appoint only so many as are urgently needed to supply existing fields. All others shall be put upon a list of reserve, which shall be placed in the hands of the General Superintendent, and from this list he shall select, on the request of any President, supplies for vacancies that may occur.

9. In each Conference the number of fields receiving the services of single men shall be commensurate with the de-

mands of the work ; that is, the filling of vacancies which arise from the natural sources of depletion and from the proper and healthy expansion of our work.

10. In each Conference the number of candidates stationed each year shall be determined solely by :

(*a*) Those required to fill vacancies caused by resignation, death and superannuation.

(*b*) Those needed for the proper and healthy expansion of the work.

In order to maintain the proper correspondence between the number of single men's fields and the number of candidates stationed by an Annual Conference in any one year, the said number of candidates stationed should not exceed the result obtained from the division of the number of single men's fields by the number of years required of each probationer on Circuit work.

11. Ministers left without a station for a year shall be assigned to a Circuit, and probationers sent to college or left on the list of reserves shall be assigned to a District.

12. To the name of each Graduate in Arts, who is a probationer in Circuit work, shall be attached the name of the Connexional College in which he is to be examined on his Conference Course of Study.

13. The names of the colleges to which probationers are sent shall appear with their names in the respective districts in the final draft of stations.

14. All probationers in the General Course who have travelled three years and all graduates who have travelled two years are required to attend college for the prescribed term.

Formation of Circuits, Districts and Missions.

15. Districts are to be formed according to the judgment of the Stationing Committee, subject to the approval of the Annual Conference.

16. Circuits are to be formed by the Stationing Committee, on the recommendation of the District Meeting. *Provided, nevertheless,* that Circuits supporting their own Ministers shall not be divided till such divisions have been approved by their respective Quarterly Official Boards, and their approval signified in writing by the Recording Steward; or, otherwise, by a *two-thirds* vote of the Annual District Meeting, when the laymen are present.

17. New missions shall be created only by a two-thirds vote of the Annual Conference, but only under the following restrictions: No new Home Mission shall be formed by dividing an existing mission, unless by such division—(*a*) Part of the original mission becomes independent, or (*b*) the Missionaries are enabled to take up new and really destitute territory.

This clause shall not supersede the authority given to the Local Superintendent of Missions to form new missions or self-supporting circuits, where considered necessary, in the intervals of the Annual Conference Sessions.

18. No circuit which has been self-supporting for a married man shall be placed upon the list of missions without the recommendation of the May District Meeting given by a three-fourths vote, and consented to by a three-fourths vote of the ensuing Annual Conference.

19. No new Home Mission shall be formed by dividing

or attaching appointments from one or more self-supporting circuits or stations unless by a three-fourths vote of the District Meeting and Annual Conference.

20. When any new Home Missions are formed, a statement signed by the President and Secretary of the Conference, giving a list of such Missions, and certifying that they have been formed in accordance with the foregoing regulations, shall be sent to the General Secretary of the Missionary Society within one month after the rising of Conference.

Section VII.

The Board of Examiners.

147. 1. Each Annual Conference shall appoint a Board of Examiners who shall examine the candidates and probationers for the ministry belonging to such Conference upon the prescribed course of study by printed or written questions supplemented, where necessary, by oral examinations, and issue certificates to the successful candidates and probationers on forms prepared by order of the General Conference. Each candidate and probationer shall present his certificate to the Ministerial Session of the Annual District Meeting, and shall be prepared to submit it at any time to Conference or College authorities when required so to do.

2. Each Examining Board shall have authority to accept Provincial Teachers' Certificates of the *first* or *second*

class, Matriculation Certificates, and Undergraduates' Certificates, for such subjects of the Course of Study as are covered by these certificates.

3. Superintendents of Circuits shall report to the Secretary of the Board of Examiners, immediately after the third Quarterly Meeting, the names and addresses of all candidates coming up for examination in the Preliminary Course.

4. Candidates for the ministry shall be required to present a certificate or other evidence of matriculation (with the Greek option) into a Canadian or other British University, or an equivalent certificate from one of our own Colleges; provided that a matriculant who has not taken Greek at matriculation must pass on that subject in his Conference Preliminary examination; provided, moreover, when the necessities of the work demand, an Annual Conference Ministerial Session may, by a two-thirds vote, on recommendation of the Examining Board and District Ministerial Session, admit a candidate on his passing the Preliminary Examination provided for non-matriculants.

5. It shall be the duty of the Secretary of each Conference or College Examining Board to give a record of standing in each subject to each candidate or probationer, showing how far he has advanced in his course; and for this purpose every probationer shall forward his certificate to the Secretary for entry of additional subjects to his credit in time to submit it to the Annual District Ministerial Session.

6. The standard qualification for young men recommended to be received into our Conferences as probationers

shall not be lower than fifty per cent. in the aggregate of the marks on the preliminary course for non-matriculants and thirty-three and one-third per cent. in each subject; the same in theological subjects for matriculants in Arts; also a standing of fifty per cent. shall be required in order to pass in each subject of the subsequent course for probationers on Circuit.

7. Only British and Canadian academical degrees shall be recognized in the records of the Church; and Foreign degrees which have secured for the holders admission *ad eundem gradum* in any Canadian or British University or College, but nothing herein contained shall exclude the recognition of Foreign degrees heretofore conferred and now recognized in the records of the Church.

Section VIII.

Evangelists.

148. 1. Each Annual Conference shall have power to make rules and regulations by which to select and authorize Evangelists, and direct evangelistic work within its bounds.

2. No Evangelist shall be employed whose teaching is not in harmony with our Doctrinal Standards, or whose work tends to lessen attachment to our Church.

3. No Annual Conference shall appoint a Minister or Probationer as an Evangelist without clear evidence that he is called of God to that work.

4. No Minister or Probationer shall enter upon the field at large as an Evangelist without the consent of his Conference.

5. Superintendents of Circuits employing Evangelists, other than recognized ministers of The Methodist Church, shall engage only those that are amenable to the Church in respect to the doctrines they teach, and labor under the supervision of the Pastor, and with the consent of the Quarterly Board where they are employed.

6. Evangelists other than recognized ministers and local preachers of our Church, who may be employed by the Superintendent of a Circuit, shall, under the provision of the Chairman of the District, and previously to commencing their work, undergo an examination similar to that provided in the Discipline for local preachers.

7. No Superintendent of a Circuit shall be permitted to employ any unauthorized Evangelist without first obtaining the consent of the Chairman of the District.

8. When any Minister is employed as an Evangelist, arrangements shall be made by which he shall receive a regular salary from contributions paid into a fund for that purpose.

Section IX.

Deaconesses.

149. 1. Each Annual Conference may, if deemed desirable, make provision for such a systematic organization of consecrated Christian women as will give them an official

relation to the Church, similar to the order of Deaconesses in Primitive Christianity. Such women, being duly qualified, shall be employed as aids to the Pastor. No vow of life-long service shall be exacted from them.

2. Deaconesses shall wear the distinctive dress registered by authority of the General Conference in the office of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa.

3. Deaconesses' Homes should be established, where desirable and practicable, in the cities and large towns of our Conferences.

4. Certificates may be issued to duly qualified persons, authorizing them to perform the duty of Deaconesses in connection with the Church; provided that no person shall receive such certificate until she has served a continuous probation of two years, completed the prescribed Course of Study, and shall be over twenty-two years of age.

CHAPTER II.

DISTRICT MEETINGS.

SECTION I.

Ministerial Session.

150. The territory occupied by each Annual Conference is divided into Districts.

151. A Ministerial Session, composed of all Ministers within the jurisdiction of the District, for the business to

be transacted by the Ministers alone, shall be held in advance of the Meeting of the District for general business, at such time as the Chairman of the District shall determine.

152. The Ministers of the District, in session assembled, shall examine the character and qualifications of all ministers and probationers for the ministry belonging to the District, in accordance with the Discipline.

153. A record of the proceedings of the Ministerial Session shall be kept by a Secretary appointed for that purpose, who shall report the same to the District Meeting for information and insertion in the District Minutes; said record to be duly forwarded to the Annual Conference.

Business of the Session.

154. The business of the Ministerial Session shall proceed in the following order:

1. The presiding officer shall open the Session with the usual devotional services.

2. A secretary of the Ministerial Session shall be elected, and the roll of the ministerial members of the District shall be called.

3. The Chairman shall then inquire concerning each minister and probationer—

(1) Is there any objection to his moral or religious character?

(2) Is there any objection to his doctrinal views and teachings?

(3) Has he duly observed and enforced our Discipline?

(4) Has he been punctual in attending all his appointments?

(5) Has he competent abilities for our itinerant work?

A separate answer to each of these questions is expected to appear in the District Minutes. Time shall be given after the fifth question, after the announcement of each name, for the presentation of any objection or charge, which may be dealt with as elsewhere provided. If there be no objections or charges, the Secretary shall so report to the Annual Conference.

4. Who have been on probation for the ministry five years, and are now recommended to be received into full Connexion and ordained?

5. What Graduates have been on probation for four years, and are now recommended to be received into full Connexion and ordained?

6. Who are recommended to be continued on probation?

(*a*) Who are probationers of four years attending College?

(*b*) Who are probationers of three years?

(*c*) Who are probationers of two years?

(*d*) Who are probationers of one year?

7. What probationers are on the list of reserve?

8. What candidates are recommended to be received on probation for the ministry? (Their full Christian names shall be recorded in the District and Conference Journals and published in the Minutes.)

9. What ministers or probationers for the ministry have died?

10. Who are recommended as Superannuated Ministers?

11. Who are recommended as Supernumerary Ministers?

12. Who have resigned from the ministry of our Church, and are recommended to receive credentials of standing?

13. Who have withdrawn from our work; and what is the recommendation of the District in the case?

14. Who have been suspended during the year; and what is the recommendation of the Ministerial Session in the case?

15. What Superannuated or Supernumerary ministers are recommended to be restored to the active work?

155. Can any measures be adopted for increasing the efficiency of our ministerial labors and the promotion of the work of God?

1. Are all the means possible used to visit all the towns and settlements within the boundaries of each Circuit or Mission?

2. Are there earnest attempts made, in every place where there are services, to form classes?

3. Is sufficient time allotted in the arrangement for the quarterly visitation of the classes, and the renewal of tickets for the Superintendent, or his assistant, to acquaint himself with the state of each member and to give suitable advice to each? Have you regularly met the classes, quarterly, and renewed the tickets, according to Discipline?

4. Have the General Rules been read during the year, and have they been given to the members on probation, according to the Discipline?

5. Do the brethren pay sufficient attention to pastoral visitation, and to catechizing the children of our members and friends?

156. These important inquiries shall be followed by a

solemn review of the state of the work of God. And any suggestions for the religious improvement of our children and the members of our Church, and especially for the greater efficiency of our ministerial labors are to be entered on the Minutes of the District Meeting and, when thought necessary, recommended to the consideration of the Annual Conference.

157. All the foregoing questions and directions shall be considered as belonging to the examination of character and Ministerial affairs, and as pertaining to the Ministerial Session of the District Meeting.

Section II.

Probationers for the Ministry.

158. *Regulations as to Probationers for the Ministry.*

1. Every Probationer for the Ministry shall pursue the course of study prescribed by the General Conference; and before he shall be received into full Connexion he shall submit to the District Ministerial Session from year to year, his certificate of standing in his Course of Study.

2. The Chairman shall also examine every Probationer for the ministry respecting his acquaintance with the books recommended to him, and a general course of reading which he has pursued during the preceding year. For this purpose every such Probationer is required to deliver to the Chairman of his District a list of the books which he has

read since the preceding Annual District Meeting, apart from text-books required in his Course of Study. This list shall be laid before the meeting, that the senior ministers may have an opportunity of giving to the probationers such advice and directions respecting their studies as may appear necessary.

159. *District Meeting Examination.*

1. In addition to the preceding course of inquiry, the following questions are to be put every year by the Chairman to every probationer for the ministry on the District, but they need not be inserted in the District Minutes. It is enough to say that the usual questions were put to the probationers and satisfactorily answered; or, if otherwise, to state the case.

(*a*) Have you now faith in Christ, and are you going on to perfection?

(*b*) Have you attended regularly to private prayer and to the devotional reading of the Scriptures, and books of a spiritual and experimental kind, in order to keep up devout and lively religious feelings in your own heart?

(*c*) Have you carefully visited the sick under your charge, and others to whom you could obtain access?

(*d*) Have you visited the people at their homes, inquiring into their religious state, praying with them, and administering wholesome counsel; and have you catechized the children of the schools, and those of your friends and hearers, as you have had opportunity?

(*e*) Have you had fruit of your ministry during the year, and are you endeavoring so to state the leading truths of Christian doctrine and experience in your discourses, and

so to apply them with affection, earnestness, and prayer, as to do all in your power to secure success in your work?

(*f*) Do you take snuff, tobacco or intoxicating drinks? A distinct answer in the negative shall be required in every case, as a condition of continuing on probation from year to year.

(*g*) Answer the following questions in such terms as you would use in stating the doctrines they contain to an inquirer under religious impressions, or in your sermons: What is Evangelical Repentance? What is Justification? What is Justifying Faith? What is the Direct Witness of the Spirit? What is the Indirect Witness of the Spirit? What is Christian Perfection? What is the difference between Justification and Sanctification? What is the difference between Justification and Regeneration? What is the difference between Sanctification and Entire Sanctification?

Let these points be proved in order by appropriate passages of Holy Writ.

2. The brethren will see the propriety of conducting this part of the proceedings with peculiar deliberation and solemnity, as in the immediate presence of God; and they may enlarge on doctrinal questions as they may deem it necessary, so as to lead the probationers to a right understanding and an appropriate expression of our leading doctrinal peculiarities as a Church.

160. *Length of Probation.*

The time for probationers for our ministry to remain on probation shall not be less than as follows:

(*a*) Undergraduates taking a full University course in

Arts and Theology and obtaining the degree of B.D. before reception into full Connexion—four years, two at college and two on a circuit.

(*b*) Undergraduates in Arts taking the B.A. degree prior to reception into full Connexion—four years, two at college, one of which shall be occupied exclusively in theological studies, and two on a circuit.

In the case of these two classes of probationers, attendance at College may precede the work on a circuit, and one year may be allowed for such attendance before being received on probation, but this shall be at the option of the Annual Conference, and shall not in any case diminish the time required to be spent on a circuit.

(*c*) All others five years, three on a circuit and two at College; attendance at College to follow the probation on a circuit except when specially otherwise determined by the Annual Conference.

This shall not interfere with the provisions and constitutions of the Superannuation Fund, which allows for only three years on probation, and the Supernumerary Fund, which allows for four years.

161. *Attendance at College.*

1. All probationers for our ministry shall attend at one of our Theological Colleges for a period of not less than two years. It is recommended that, whenever possible, the time be extended to three years.

2. The Faculties in Theology in the different Colleges are authorized to require students to take the equivalent of the full Conference course prescribed for each year.

3. No probationer appointed to a college shall be re

moved therefrom, except by authority of the President of his Conference, with the consent of the Chairman of his District and the President of his College or Dean of Theology.

4. Probationers appointed to attend our Theological Colleges shall pursue the course of study prescribed, except students in medicine studying with a view to mission work, and Undergraduates in Arts, who, in addition to these courses, shall take such theological studies as may be deemed advisable by the Faculty of the University or College to which they are appointed.

162. *College District Meeting.*

1. The examinations prescribed for probationers in Annual District Meetings shall be conducted annually at each College District Meeting, and a report of the same forwarded to each District Ministerial Session, respecting the students belonging to that District. All probationers at College are expected to attend the College District Meeting.

2. The examination of probationers for our ministry in our Theological Colleges or Universities, in regard to their *studies*, shall be by Examiners appointed by the authorities of such Institutions; and in regard to their *moral character and qualification for the ministry*, by the College District Meeting composed of the ministerial members of the Faculty in each case, and the ministers of our Church residing in the place where the Institution is located, the Chairman of the District presiding, or, in his absence, the Dean of the Theological Faculty.

163. *Standing in the Course of Study.*

1. All probationers and candidates shall present to the District Ministerial Session their certificates of standing in their Course of Study. The secretary shall announce and record how far the required course is completed for transmission of the information to the Conference Ministerial Session, and shall at once return the certificates to the probationers and candidates.

2. The Secretary or Registrar of the Board of Examiners when reporting the result of examinations shall specify the particular author studied, and if not the same as in the regular course for probationers on Circuits, shall designate for which author in that course such work is designed to be an equivalent.

3. In the case of probationers, the Registrar of the Faculty shall send a certificate of standing of each student at College to the Secretary of the Examining Board of the Conference concerned.

4. A certificate of a student's having passed in any subject in one of our Colleges shall be taken in lieu of an examination in such subject.

5. Candidates and probationers for our French, Indian and Foreign Work shall pursue the respective courses of study prescribed.

6. Graduates in Divinity shall be exempted from the ordinary Course of Study. In the case of Probationers who are pursuing the B.D. course in one of our Colleges, the annual examination in such course of study shall be accepted instead of the annual examination in the regular

course for any year. But prior to being recommended to being received into full Connexion and ordained, they shall be examined on Wesley's Sermons, the History of Methodism, Fletcher's last Check on Christian Perfection, and Steele's Antinomianism, and the Discipline of The Methodist Church. This examination shall also be required of all probationers passing through our Theological Colleges, who have not been examined on these subjects in their Course of Study.

164. *Attendance at District Meeting.*

1. Probationers attending College are not required to be present at the District Ministerial Session, to which they belong, except when eligible for recommendation for reception into full Connexion and ordination, but their names shall be called, and the reports from their College District Meeting shall be read, and their cases recommended to the Conference Ministerial Session as the District Ministerial Session shall determine.

2. Every probationer who has been recommended by the District Ministerial Session for reception into full Connexion shall attend the Conference of that year, except those laboring in distant Missions.

3. Probationers for the ministry appointed to attend College shall be responsible to such District Ministerial Session as the Conference may determine, and shall be recommended by said District Ministerial Session from year to year, for continuance on probation, or for reception into full Connexion and ordination; nevertheless, any such probationer who has been removed from College, by the proper authorities, to a Circuit or Mission, shall be a

member of the District to which such Circuit or Mission belongs, and by its District Ministerial Session shall his relation be considered and presented to Conference.

165. *Sundry Regulations.*

1. A probationer who marries without the consent of the Annual Conference shall be dropped in silence.

2. When a probationer's name is not inserted in the Minutes, he must receive a written license from the President or Chairman of the District on which he resides.

3. If a probationer desist from want of health, or be proven guilty of immorality, it shall be stated in the Minutes. In all other cases the Conference shall exercise its discretion in granting letters of standing.

4. Any minister who has received aid from the Educational Society, and retires from our ministry, shall refund such amount to the Society before receiving a certificate of his standing.

5. When a probationer for the ministry on the List of Reserves has not been called out into the work in the course of the year, the Chairman of the District shall make inquiry of the Superintendent of the Circuit where he resides whether he be still deemed a person proper to be employed in our regular ministry, and the result shall be reported to the Annual District Meeting.

6. Observe: taking on probation is entirely different from admitting a probationer into full Connexion. One on probation may be either admitted or rejected without doing him any wrong; otherwise it would have been no probation at all. Let every Chairman explain this to those on probation.

Section III.

Candidates for the Ministry.

166. The Chairmen are required not only to examine very minutely, in the Annual District Ministerial Session, all persons proposed as candidates for our ministry, but also to report distinctly in their District Minutes for the consideration of the Conference Ministerial Session, the opinion of the District Ministerial Session after such examinations respecting their health, piety, moral character, ministerial abilities, educational acquirements, belief of our doctrines, attachment to our Discipline, and freedom from debt, as well as from all secular encumbrances.

167. *Recommendation by Quarterly Official Board.*

1. Before a District Ministerial Session shall recommend a candidate to the Conference Ministerial Session, to be admitted on probation, such candidate must have been a member of our Church for one year, and a local preacher in good standing for six months, and approved and recommended by the Quarterly Official Board of the Circuit or Mission on which he resides. He must also have a certificate of having completed his Preliminary Course.

2. No student of less than two years' standing at one of our Connexional Institutions shall be received as a candidate for our ministry without the recommendation of the Quarterly Official Board of the Circuit upon which he was resident before entering College, together with a certificate of good moral and religious standing from the President of

the College, or the Dean of the Faculty of Theology, with which he has been connected.

3. After passing the preliminary examination at College, students recommended by a Quarterly Official Board shall return to the District to which such Quarterly Official Board belongs for their further examination and recommendation to the Annual Conference Ministerial Session.

168. *District Ministerial Session Examination.*

1. Every candidate thus recommended shall attend the ensuing District Ministerial Session, and be examined before all the brethren present respecting his religious experience, his knowledge of divine things, his educational acquirements, his reading, his views of the doctrines of the Gospel, and his regard for Methodism in general.

2. Every candidate proposed to the District Ministerial Session is then to be asked by the Chairman the following questions, to each of which a distinct answer shall be required:

Have you been converted to God? Have you now faith in Christ? Are you going on to perfection? Do you expect to be made perfect in love in this life? Are you earnestly striving after it? Are you resolved to devote yourself wholly to God and His work? Have you been baptized? What are your views on Infant Baptism and the Lord's Supper? Do you know the Rules of the Society? Do you keep them? Do you take snuff, tobacco or intoxicating drinks? And will you continue to abstain from the use of them? Have you read the whole Discipline? Are you willing to conform to it? Have you con-

sidered "the twelve rules of a Minister," especially the first, the tenth and the twelfth? Will you keep them for conscience' sake? Are you determined to employ all your time in the work of God? Will you preach at every suitable opportunity, endeavoring not to speak too long nor too loud? Will you diligently instruct the children in every place? Will you visit from house to house? Will you recommend fasting, both by precept and example? Are you in debt? What is your age? Have you good health and have you a sound constitution? Are you engaged to marry?

Do you sincerely and fully believe the doctrines of Methodism as contained in our twenty-five Articles of Religion, and as taught by Mr. Wesley in his Notes on the New Testament and Volumes of Sermons, especially the following leading ones: A Trinity of Persons in the Unity of the Godhead; the total depravity of all men by nature, in consequence of Adam's fall; the Atonement made by Christ for the sins of all the human race; the direct witness of the Spirit; the possibility of falling from a state of justification and holiness, and perishing everlastingly; the absolute necessity of holiness, both of heart and life, and the proper eternity of future rewards and punishments? Will you endeavor fully and faithfully to preach them? What is your religious experience? and what is your call to this work?

3. After the examination the candidate shall withdraw, and the meeting shall determine whether he shall be recommended to the ensuing Conference Ministerial Session to be received as a probationer for the ministry.

169. *Duties of Chairmen.*

1. No person shall be employed by a Chairman of a District, with a view to entering the ministry, who has not been a member of our Church one year, and a local preacher in good standing for six months, nor shall he have authority to employ any person with a view to his reception into the ministry, without the consent of the Annual Conference Ministerial Session, or of the Special Committee thereof; and in no case shall any person be so employed who has been rejected by a Quarterly Official Board, District Ministerial Session, or Annual Conference Ministerial Session.

2. No Chairman of a District, or other Conference officer, shall have authority to employ a married man during the year, with a view to his being received as a candidate for the ministry, without the consent of the Annual Conference Ministerial Session, or the Special Committee thereof. Nor shall any District Ministerial Session recommend any married man to the Conference for reception on probation for the ministry, unless he has been previously employed in case of absolute necessity, in accordance with the foregoing restriction.

3. If the Chairman deem it not convenient for a candidate to attend the District Ministerial Session, he may, with two other ministers, examine him and report the result to the District Ministerial Session.

Miscellaneous.

170. All young men taken into the work by Chairmen of Districts, in accordance with the above regulations, before the second meeting of the Quarterly Official Board,

shall be allowed the full year. When a young man has travelled under a Chairman for two or more years, only one year will be allowed on the term of his probation.

171. It is to be distinctly understood that probationers are received for the ministry of The Methodist Church, and not merely for that of a particular Conference, and therefore shall be under obligation to proceed, when so directed by the proper authorities, to any part of the Connexion where their services are required.

Temporary Provisions for the work in New Ontario, Manitoba, the North-West and British Columbia.

172. 1. The Local Superintendent for New Ontario and the Corresponding Secretary for Manitoba and the North-West and British Columbia are permitted to employ suitable laborers on the new fields being organized into missions or circuits, the men being in their judgment, after due investigation, competent to do the required work.

2. After being employed these men shall be required to pass within the First year an examination in the following subjects :

Wesley's Sermons, I.-LII.

The Methodist Catechism.

The New Testament, the examination being without introduction or commentary and including the committing to memory of important passages, as in Par. 543 (*a*).

The Discipline, Part I., chap. I., chap. II., secs. 1, 2, 3, chap. III., chap. IV. ; Part II., chap. III. ; Part IV. and the Constitution of the Sunday School and Epworth League.

3. After such men have been employed for one or more years under a Missionary Superintendent they may be received on probation by an Annual Conference; but before Ordination they shall pass the usual examination in the five years' course of study (on a Circuit and at College) in which the English Bible may be substituted for Greek under direction of the Theological Faculty; they shall also present a High School or Public School departmental certificate, or take a year's course in literary studies in one of our Colleges and pass a satisfactory examination thereon.

4. These provisions shall be regarded as temporary, and shall be revised, discontinued or otherwise at the next General Conference.

Section IV.

The Annual District Meeting.

173. The Annual District Meeting shall consist of all ministers and probationers for the ministry within its bounds, and one lay delegate for each minister or probationer in the active work from each Circuit or Mission in the District, who shall have been elected by ballot by the Quarterly Official Board. Where a Circuit or Mission has no minister or probationer, but only a supply, the Quarterly Official Board may elect by ballot a lay delegate, who shall be a member of the Annual District Meeting.

174. The Chairman shall appoint the time and place of the *first* District Meeting, after which he shall appoint the time and the District Meeting shall appoint the place.

175. In the absence of the Chairman, the District Meeting shall elect from among its ministerial members, by ballot, without debate, a Chairman, *pro tem.*

176. In case of the death or disability of a Chairman during the year, the Financial Secretary shall call a meeting of the ministerial members of the District and the lay members of the previous Annual District Meeting, who shall elect by ballot one of their number, being a member of the Conference, to fill the office for the unexpired term.

177. In case the Chairman is to be transferred, his duties shall cease with the Annual District Meeting, at which his successor shall be elected by ballot to fill his unexpired term.

Auditing of Schedules.

178. The District Meeting shall appoint one minister and one layman to audit all Circuit and District Schedules, and see that the extensions and additions are correct.

179. Financial Secretaries, District Secretaries and Treasurers of Connexional Funds in the Annual Conferences shall require that the amounts received by them agree with the Schedules, and that the Schedules agree one with the other.

Election of Laymen to Conference.

180. The lay members of the District Meeting shall meet separately some time during the Session and elect by ballot, without debate, lay representatives to the Annual Conference, in the proportion of one for each minister in full Connexion within the bounds of the District.

181. Laymen to be eligible for election must be at least twenty-five years of age, and must have been members of the Church in good standing for five consecutive years next preceding the election.

182. The Chairman and Secretary of the District shall forthwith send to the Secretary of the Conference a list, certified by them, of such lay representatives, and from such lists shall be compiled the roll of lay members of the Annual Conference.

183. No candidate for our ministry, and no person employed under a Chairman with a view to becoming such candidate, shall be eligible for election as a lay representative to either District Meeting or Annual Conference.

Business of the District Meeting.

184. After the Chairman has opened the meeting by the usual devotional exercises, a Journal Secretary shall be elected by ballot, who shall keep a record of the proceedings, including all statistics, in a journal procured for that purpose. The meeting shall also appoint a Statistical Secretary, whose duty it shall be to tabulate all statistics, and who shall also be *ex officio* a member of the Conference Statistical Committee, and he shall fill out two sets of District Schedules, one for the Journal Secretary and the other for the use of the Conference. At the close of each meeting the Minutes shall be signed by the Chairman and Journal Secretary. The Journal shall be kept by the Chairman and brought to the Conference, and be delivered by him to his successor.

185. *The following order shall be observed when the general business of the District Meeting is under consideration:*

1. What members are now present?

2. What is the record of the Ministerial Session of the District?

3. What minister and what layman are appointed to audit the Schedules?

4. What are the receipts, and what is the expenditure, of each Circuit or Mission.

5. What has been collected on each Circuit and Mission for Connexional Funds?

6. Have subscriptions as well as collections for the Educational and Missionary Funds been taken on every Circuit?

7. What special cases are now recommended to the favorable consideration of the Committees of the several Connexional funds?

8. What is the number of ministers' children on the District having claims on the Children's Fund, and what are their respective names and ages? Have all the regulations respecting the Children's Fund been fully carried into effect in the District?

9. What probationers for the ministry are recommended to be sent to College?

Before any probationer for the ministry shall be sent to College with recommendation for a loan from the Educational Fund, his circumstances shall be inquired into by the District Meeting, and the minute of the District, in his case, shall be forwarded to the Secretary of the Educational Committee of the Annual Conference. No aid by

loan or fees shall be made to any one who has not travelled at least one year.

10. What is the number of Church members? The number of churches and other preaching places in each Circuit or Mission?

Where the name of a Circuit or Mission has been obliterated by change of boundary, it shall be reported in the District Schedule of the next year, and the number of members thereon at the time of the change be placed in the columns for "Removed by Change of Boundaries."

11. What is the number of ministers, probationers for the ministry, and laymen, in the Quarterly Official Board of each Circuit or Mission? What is the number of Sunday Schools on the District, and what are the reports from the Circuits and Missions respecting the same? Have the Sunday School Schedules been duly filled up? What is the number of Epworth Leagues on the District? and what is the number of members connected therewith? Have the Epworth League Schedules been duly filled up?

12. What is the number of Baptisms administered and of Marriages solemnized by each minister? Have all such Marriages solemnized during the year been duly recorded, and the returns made according to law?

13. What churches or parsonages have been built, enlarged or sold during the year? What Connexional property is insured? In what office? For how much? At what rates? What parsonages have been furnished? What other Connexional property has been acquired? What changes in relation to Church property are now recommended? What property has been destroyed by

fire? Have the approved Conference Schedules been duly filled up? Have the Circuit Registers been properly kept?

14. What can be done to improve the financial state of the District?

(*a*) Are all the financial arrangements of the Church duly observed in each Circuit and Mission? The quarterly contributions at the renewal of tickets? The public collections and private subscriptions?

(*b*) What changes are recommended in the order and arrangement of the work on the Circuits and Missions? What new Circuits or Missions are recommended? What additional preachers are required for any Circuit or Mission on the District?

15. What are the Reports from the several Missions on the District?

16. What minister and what layman are elected to act with the Chairman in visiting Missions and weak Circuits?

17. What minister is elected to represent the District on the Stationing Committee?

18. What minister is elected a reserve representative on the Stationing Committee?

19. What laymen are elected as members of the Annual Conference?

20. What minister and what layman are elected to represent the District on the following Committees of the Annual Conference, viz.: Sunday Schools? Epworth Leagues? Contingent Fund? Sustentation Fund? Temperance, Prohibition and Moral Reform? Memorials and Miscellaneous Resolutions? Sabbath Observance? Church Property? State of the Work? Nominating?

21. What widows and children of ministers have claims on the Superannuation or Supernumerary Fund?

22. Can any measures be adopted for the promotion of the work of God in the District?

23. Where shall the next District Meeting be held?

Duties of Chairmen.

186. The duties of a Chairman are—1. To take the oversight of the whole work on his District according to the Discipline, as far as his duty to the Circuit on which he resides will permit.

2. To take charge of all the ministers, probationers for the ministry, local preachers and exhorters in his District.

3. To change, receive and suspend ministers or probationers for the ministry in his District in the intervals of Conference, as the Discipline directs.

4. If any minister or probationer for the ministry absent himself from his Circuit without the leave of his Chairman, the Chairman shall, as far as possible, fill his place with another minister or probationer, who shall be paid for his labors out of the allowance of the absent minister or probationer, in proportion to the usual allowance.

5. In case of disability of a Superintendent of a Circuit, or a vacancy occurring in the office, the Chairman of the District shall have all the powers of the Superintendent until a successor be appointed or the disability be removed.

6. To preside at the District Meetings.

7. To call for completed statistical returns at the Annual District Meeting.

8. To visit any Station or Circuit in his District when he may judge it expedient, and, so far as practicable, visit the Missions on his District at the first Quarterly Board Meeting for the year, to induce greater liberality in support of the Missionaries, and, wherever possible, to lead the Mission to a self-sustaining position.

9. To see that every part of the Discipline is duly enforced, and within sixty days from the date of the appeal, to hear and determine appeals from the decisions of Superintendents of Circuits or Missions within the District on questions of law, notice of such appeal to be given within thirty days after notice of the decision appealed against.

10. Where the Chairman is interested in the appeal, either personally or because of having been concerned in any way in the trial appealed from, the appeal may be taken directly to the President of the Conference.

11. To give the President all necessary information of the state of his District.

12. To prepare a condensed report of the operations of the Missionary Society in his District, to be compiled from the reports of individual Missionaries, as approved by the Annual District Meeting.

13. To ascertain and report to the Annual Conference, for publication in the Minutes, the names and addresses of ministers and widows who are claimants on the Superannuation Fund, and also the names and dates of birth of children of deceased ministers who are claimants on the Fund, together with any changes that have taken place in relation to these claimants by death, limitation of claim,

marriage, non-membership or other causes during the year, on their respective Districts.

14. The Chairman is especially directed and required to visit any Circuit or Mission in his District when requested by the Superintendent of such Circuit or Mission in case of any dispute or difficulty which the Superintendent may desire assistance to adjust; also, in all cases of appeal. In all these cases the Circuit or Mission visited shall pay the travelling expenses of the Chairman. The Chairman shall have authority to call in any minister or probationer of his District to supply his place when absent in visiting any Circuit or Mission.

187. Should the Chairman, or the Superintendent of the Circuit, or any of his colleagues, be requested to withdraw, on any occasion, from any of our regularly-constituted meetings for business, he shall in no case do so; and should he be obliged to withdraw from any such meeting during its sittings, the meeting will be thereby dissolved. And if any Chairman or Superintendent of a Circuit, or other minister do willingly submit to any requisition, so as to withdraw from any such meeting before its conclusion, he shall, on proof thereof, receive due censure at the ensuing Annual Conference.

Section V.

The Financial District Meeting.

188. A Financial District Meeting shall be held in each District, not later than the month of September in each

year; the day and place to be determined by the Chairman. The Financial District Meeting shall be composed of all ministers on the District, and all probationers engaged in Circuit work, with an equal number of laymen elected by the Quarterly Boards of the Circuits to which these ministers and probationers are attached.

189. *The business of the Financial District Meeting shall be:*

1. To apportion to the several Circuits the amounts placed at its disposal by the Annual Conference.

2. To examine into the circumstances and probable income of the Home, Indian, Foreign or other Missions within the jurisdiction of the District, in the same way as they examine into those of the dependent Circuits, and recommend the amount which, in their judgment, should be appropriated towards the support of such Missions, which shall be immediately reported by the Chairman to the President of the Annual Conference and to the Missionary Secretary.

3. To arrange the claims of the children of ministers on the District, and to receive from the Chairman of the District the amount to be raised by each Circuit and Mission for the Superannuation or Supernumerary Fund, and take into account the circumstances of any Circuit or Mission which may be regarded as exceptional, and make provision for the relief of such exception; provided the District as a whole contribute the amount designated as its proportion.

4. To make arrangements for Missionary and Educational Meetings, which arrangements shall be binding on all concerned; and inquire into the state of religion in the

District, and devise means for the promotion of the spiritual interests of the Church.

Miscellaneous.

190. The Financial Secretary shall be the Treasurer of all Connexional Funds on the District, except the Missionary Fund, and shall pay to the Superintendents of Circuits, or on their order, the sums appropriated to their Circuits, which payments such Superintendents shall report to their respective Quarterly Official Boards.

191. The Financial Secretary shall, forthwith after each Financial District Meeting, furnish the Treasurers of the Superannuation or Supernumerary Fund with a complete statement of the amounts required from each Circuit, as adopted by the Financial District Meeting.

CHAPTER III.

CIRCUIT OFFICIAL MEETINGS.

SECTION I.

The Quarterly Official Board.

192. There shall be a Quarterly Official Board on each Circuit, Mission or Station, as constituted and designated by the Annual Conference, consisting of the ministers and probationers for the ministry; the local preachers; the exhorters; the Circuit stewards; the leader of each class, and one assistant leader of each class having a membership of twenty members or upwards; superintendents of Sunday

Schools; one representative from each board of trustees, he being a member of the Church in the Circuit to which the trustee board which he represents belongs, and whose appointment shall be annual; and, also, of additional representatives who may have been appointed by the societies of the Circuit. The number of such additional representatives shall not exceed the number of stewards on the Circuit; and the following, they being members of the Church and approved by the Quarterly Official Board: The presidents of Epworth Leagues; presidents of woman's missionary auxiliaries; presidents of ladies' aid societies; and the leader of each catechumen class. Only members over twenty-one years of age shall have the right to vote on questions involving financial liability.

193. The Superintendent of the Circuit is the Chairman of the Quarterly Official Board. When the Chairman of the District is present he shall have the right to preside.

194. The Superintendent is the minister on each Circuit and Mission, who is appointed from time to time to take charge of the Societies therein.

195. *The regular business of the Quarterly Official Board shall be:* 1. Devotions 2. Minutes.

1. To receive the financial returns from the leaders, stewards and other persons entrusted with the funds of the Circuit; to pay the salaries and all the expenses of the ministers and probationers for the ministry; to receive from the Leaders' Meeting the report of the disbursement of the fund for the poor for the quarter; and to receive the report of the state of the Sunday Schools and Epworth Leagues on the Circuit.

2. To receive and try appeals.

3. At the *First* meeting of the Quarterly Official Board, to receive the recommendations of the Stewards' Meeting and make an estimate of the amounts necessary for the family or families of the ministers or probationers for the ministry, and appoint the lay delegate or delegates to attend the Financial District Meeting.

4. At the *Second* meeting of the Quarterly Official Board, to appoint, on the nomination of the Superintendent, the stewards of the Circuit, of whom there shall be not less than *three* nor more than *seven*, one of whom shall be the Recording Steward, who shall keep a record of the proceedings of the Quarterly Official Board in a book procured for that purpose. The Superintendent shall nominate at least three more than the number of stewards to be elected; after the nominations are all made the election shall be by ballot. The Superintendent shall nominate two or more of the stewards for Recording Steward, and the Board shall elect by ballot. It shall also, on the nomination of the Superintendent of the Circuit, appoint the representatives to the Sunday School Committee, the number to be not less than *three* nor more than *five*.

5. At the *First*, *Second* or *Third* meeting of the Quarterly Official Board, to recommend candidates for the ministry; *provided always*, that no person shall be recommended as a candidate until he has been a local preacher at least six months.

6. Young men attending College, who may wish to become local preachers, may be received by the Quarterly Official Boards of their Circuits as candidates, after due examination, provided they present certificates of moral and religious character from the Dean of the Faculty.

7. At the *Third* meeting of the Quarterly Official Board, to receive the audited statement of Trustees, referred to in Sections 11 and 23 of the Model Deed.

8. At the *Fourth* meeting of the Quarterly Official Board: (1) To receive from the Superintendent of the Circuit the report of the number of members on the Circuit. (2) Also, the reports of the Sunday Schools and of the Epworth Leagues. (3) To elect by ballot, without debate, the lay delegates to attend the Annual District Meeting, in the proportion of one delegate for each minister or probationer in the active work on the Circuit. If there be no minister or probationer on the Circuit or Mission, but only a supply, to elect one lay delegate as above. (4) Where there is no Local Preachers' Meeting, to inquire into the character, gifts, labors, punctuality and usefulness of every local preacher by name; and, if there be no valid objection alleged and sustained, to renew their licenses. (5) To examine the character of the exhorters; and, if there be no valid objection alleged and sustained, to renew their licenses. (6) Where there is no Leaders' Meeting, to examine the character of all the Leaders, their punctuality in beginning and ending their class meetings in proper time, and whatever relates to their office. (7) To determine the number of stewards for the ensuing year. (8) To arrange the apportionment, scale, date, and mode of nomination and election of the representatives of the Societies of the Circuit, who must be members of the Church. (9) The Quarterly Official Board may, where there is no Local Preachers' Meeting, at any of the regular meetings, give license to local preachers and exhorters, on the nomination of the Superintendent of the Circuit.

Printing Ct. Report 209 Par. 110 Minutes.

9. Special meetings of the Quarterly Official Board may be convened by the Superintendent. On the request of five members of the Board he shall convene such meeting. Only the business named in the notice to the members of the Board shall be transacted at any such special meeting.

10. The Quarterly Official Board may make arrangements or agreements with the Board of Trustees not inconsistent with the Discipline of the Church, or with the trusts upon which the trust property is held, for the administration or disposal of any of the Church funds which are under the control of said Boards, or either of them.

Duties of Superintendents.

196. The duties of a Superintendent are: 1. To take the oversight of all the ministers and probationers for the ministry in his Circuit or Mission.

2. To give to each member of the Church a yearly card of membership, except where the Quarterly Board, by resolution, expresses its desire for the quarterly ticket, in which case it shall be at liberty to arrange for the same. This card of membership shall not be valid as a certificate of removal.

3. To see that all public collections in aid of the Circuit, or of the Connexional Funds, are regularly made in each congregation of the Circuit, and also to see that all the Circuit Schedules are correctly filled up and presented to the District Meeting.

4. To hold meetings of the Quarterly Official Board; to preside at all Official Meetings of the Circuit, and to make all nominations to office not otherwise provided for. To

receive, try and expel members, according to Discipline, and to give due notice to the Chairman of the District in all cases of appeal. To execute all our rules fully and strenuously against all frauds, and particularly against dishonest insolvencies, suffering none to remain in the Church on any account, who are found guilty of any fraud. To explain and enforce vigorously, but calmly, the General Rules of the Church, in harmony with Paragraph 35 of the Discipline.

5. To meet the Stewards and Leaders regularly, and examine the accounts of all the Stewards. To appoint all the Leaders and Assistant Leaders, and change them when he sees it necessary, but not contrary to the wish of the Class, or without consulting the Leaders' Meeting. To make strict inquiry in the Leaders' Meeting, before the *Fourth* meeting of the Quarterly Official Board, and where there is no such meeting, then in the *Fourth* meeting of the Quarterly Official Board, into the moral character of all the Leaders To license such persons as he may think proper to officiate as exhorters, provided no person shall be so licensed without consulting the Local Preachers' Meeting, or Quarterly Official Board of the Circuit in which the person proposed resides. To make a plan of appointments for the ministers, the probationers for the ministry, local preachers and exhorters on the Circuit, with the counsel of the Local Preachers' Meeting, or of the Quarterly Official Board, where there is no Local Preachers' Meeting. To invite and earnestly urge the attendance and assistance of the lay representatives at the District Meetings, according to rule.

6. To hold Watch-night services and Love-feasts; but

no Love-feast shall last longer than an hour and half. To appoint Prayer Meetings wherever he can in his Circuit, and to see that a Fast be observed in each Society on the Friday preceding every meeting of the Quarterly Board. To see that the General Rules be read once a year in every congregation, and occasionally in each Society, by himself or his colleague; and that the Pastoral Address of the Annual Conference be read to all the Societies on his Circuit. To take care that every Society be duly supplied with books; and to urge upon all who are admitted into our Church to read attentively our General Rules, the Catechism and other Methodist works.

7. In consultation with the Leaders to take an exact account of the number of members in Society, and report the same to the *Fourth* meeting of the Quarterly Official Board and to the Annual District Meeting, with the number of members who have been received on probation, or by certificate of membership, and of those who have removed, died or ceased to be members, or have been separated from, or added to, the Circuit by alteration of its boundaries; also to report the Sunday Schools and the Epworth Leagues of his Circuit; also to report the number of vacancies, if any, in the Trustee Boards; and if a Superintendent of a Mission, to prepare a report of the religious state of his Mission, and read it in the Annual District Meeting, subject to the revision of that meeting. To leave for his successor a Circuit book, containing an exact list of all the official members, and also of the names of all the members in his Circuit, arranged in their Classes, as found at the *Fourth* meeting of the Quarterly Official Board, and also a list of adherents. To keep a register of

baptisms, marriages and burials in a book provided for the purpose by the Official Board, such register to be the property of the Circuit and to remain among its records. In any Province where a circuit register is kept under provincial law, it shall be accepted as a compliance with this requirement.

8. To remind members, from time to time, that none are to remove from one Circuit to another without a certificate of membership from the Superintendent of the Circuit, and to warn them that without such certificate they will not be received into the Church in other places; and also to forward a duplicate copy of such certificate by mail to the Superintendent of the Circuit to which they may be removing. In all cases persons applying for membership on certificate shall be held responsible to the Society with which they unite from the date of the certificate, but no certificate shall be esteemed valid that is not presented within one year from the date of it.

9. To make application in the Classes and to our friends on behalf of the Superannuation Fund, during the months of November and December, and to make a public collection for the same object in the month of November or December, paying the moneys thus received to the Financial Secretary, in time for transmission to the Treasurers of the Superannuation Fund on or before the first day of January.

10. To see that collections are taken up for each Connexional Fund at the following times, viz.: Contingent Fund in the month of September; Union Church Relief Fund in October; General Conference Fund and Temperance, Prohibition and Moral Reform Fund at such time as

the Annual Conference may direct; Educational Fund and Missionary Society, as arranged by the Financial District Meeting. The first Sunday in October is to be observed as Missionary Day, and, if practicable, the last Sunday in December as Children's Missionary Day."

11. To carry out the arrangement made by the Financial District Meeting in regard to the Missionary and Educational work on his Circuit. To see that the whole of the collections at all the services on the days appointed for the several Connexional Funds are devoted to such funds. To pay promptly to the appointed Treasurers all moneys collected for the several Funds at the times directed by Conference.

12. To encourage in all proper cases Field Meetings and Open-air Meetings on his charge, and also Camp Meetings, as a Circuit or union of Circuits may, in their Quarterly Official Boards, determine; and to enforce the proper observance of the Sabbath at such meetings.

13. The authority of a Superintendent who is removing, to administer discipline upon a Circuit, shall cease with the final reading of the Stations to the Conference.

Section II.

The Local Preachers' Meeting.

197. A Local Preachers' Meeting is composed of the local preachers and exhorters on the Circuit, provided there are six local preachers on the Circuit of three years' continuous standing.

198. The Superintendent of the Circuit shall regularly

meet the local preachers and exhorters once a quarter; and no person shall be put upon the plan as a local preacher or exhorter, or be permitted to preach among us as such, without the approbation of that meeting on the nomination of the Superintendent; or, if in any Circuit such a Local Preachers' Meeting cannot be held, they shall be proposed and appointed by the Quarterly Official Board of the Circuit; but no minister or probationer for the ministry who has been suspended or expelled by the Conference shall, on any account, be employed as a local preacher without the consent of the Annual Conference.

199. The Superintendent of the Circuit, at each regular Local Preachers' Meeting, or at the Fourth meeting of the Quarterly Official Board of the Circuit, shall inquire into the religious and moral character, doctrines, abilities to preach, and punctuality in attending appointments, of each local preacher and exhorter by name.

200. The questions proposed in the examination of the character of local preachers and exhorters shall be the same as those proposed in regard to ministers, viz.: (1) Is there any objection to his moral or religious character? (2) Is there any objection to his doctrinal views and teachings? (3) Has he duly observed our Discipline? (4) Is he punctual in attending all his appointments? (5) Has he competent abilities for a local preacher or exhorter? (6) Will you renew his license as a local preacher or exhorter?

201. *Local Preacher's Examination.*

Every person proposed to be received as a local preacher shall be asked by the Chairman or Superintendent the

following questions, to which a distinct answer shall be required:

What is your religious experience? Have you faith in Christ? Are you going on to perfection? Do you expect to be perfected in love in this life? Are you earnestly striving after it? Are you resolved to devote yourself to God and His work? Do you sincerely and fully believe the doctrines of Methodism, as contained in the Articles of Religion, and as taught by Mr. Wesley in his Notes on the New Testament and Volumes of Sermons, especially the following leading ones: A Trinity of Persons in the Unity of the Godhead; the total depravity of all men by nature in consequence of Adam's fall; the Atonement made by Christ for the sins of all the human race; Justification by Faith; the direct Witness of the Spirit; the possibility of falling from a state of justification and holiness, and perishing everlastingly; the absolute necessity of holiness both in heart and life; and the proper eternity of rewards and punishments? What is Evangelical Repentance? What is Justification? What is Justifying Faith? What is the direct Witness of the Spirit? What is the indirect Witness of the Spirit? What is Christian Perfection? What is the difference between Justification and Regeneration? What is the difference between Sanctification and Entire Sanctification?

Will you endeavor fully and faithfully to preach these doctrines?

202. *Regulations in reference to Local Preachers.*

1. All local preachers shall meet in Class. No exception shall be made in respect of any who may have been ministers or probationers for the ministry in former years.

2. The name of every local preacher shall be recorded on the Journal of the Quarterly Official Board of the Circuit in which he resides.

3. No local preacher shall hold Love-feasts without the consent of the Superintendent of the Circuit, nor in anywise interfere with his ministerial duties.

4. Ministers who withdraw from connection with an Annual Conference, and ministers who are located by the action of an Annual Conference, may, should they desire it, be considered as Local Preachers, and shall be subject to all the regulations affecting local preachers; and, if charged with immorality, shall be proceeded against as other local preachers, and the Superintendent of the Circuit or Mission shall report the case to the Annual District Meeting.

5. When an ordained local preacher is expelled, the President of the Annual Conference shall require of him the credentials of his ordination to be filed with the papers of the Annual Conference within the limits of which the expulsion has taken place. And should he at any future time produce to the Annual Conference a certificate of his restoration, signed by the Chairman and countersigned by the Secretary of the District Meeting, his credentials shall be restored to him.

6. When a local preacher or exhorter removes from one Circuit to another, he shall obtain from the Superintendent of the Circuit a certificate of his official standing in the Church at the time of his removal, without which he shall not be received as a local preacher or exhorter in other places.

7. No local preacher or exhorter coming to reside on any of our Circuits from another part of the world, although duly recommended, shall be allowed to preach or hold meetings in our churches unless he become a member of the Church and submit to its Discipline.

8. Should any local preacher or exhorter belonging to any other Methodist Church make application to be received into our Church, the Superintendent of the Circuit, in concurrence with the Quarterly Official Board, or the Local Preachers' Meeting of the Circuit on which such local preacher or exhorter may reside, is authorized to receive him, after having inquired into his qualifications and all the circumstances of his case.

9. Any local preacher may be admitted to examination on the Theological subjects of the Conference Preliminary Examination, and to the examination on all the subjects of the Ordinary Course of Study for probationers for the ministry for the three years on circuit, Greek being optional. On the completion of the course, a certificate to that effect shall be granted, and should such local preacher become a probationer for the ministry, such examinations shall be credited to him on the course for probationers on circuit.

10. All preachers who received ordination in any of the uniting bodies, and were in good standing at the time of the Union of 1883, shall retain all rights and privileges conferred by such ordination.

Section III.

The Leaders' Meeting.

203. The Leaders' Meeting shall be composed of the Ministers and Probationers for the ministry appointed to the Circuit, the Stewards of the Circuit, the Leaders and Assistant Leaders.

204. A Leaders' Meeting shall be held at least once a quarter, and oftener, if necessary, to inquire: (1) Are there any sick? (2) Are there any requiring temporal relief? (3) Are there any that walk disorderly and will not be reproved? (4) Are there any who wilfully neglect the means of grace? (5) Are there any changes to be made in the Classes? (6) Are there any members on probation to be received into full membership? (7) Is there any miscellaneous business?

205. A return shall be made by the Leaders' Meeting to the Quarterly Official Board of the amount contributed to the fund for the poor, and the disbursements for the quarter.

206. It is the duty of the Superintendent of the Circuit to make strict inquiry in the Leaders' Meeting preceding the fourth meeting of the Quarterly Official Board, into the moral character of the Leaders and Assistant Leaders, their punctuality in beginning and ending their class meetings in proper time, and whatever relates to their office; and if there be no objections alleged and sustained, they shall continue in office for the year. Where a Leaders' meeting is not held, its duties shall be performed by the Quarterly Official Board.

Section IV.

The Stewards' Meeting.

207. The Stewards' Meeting shall be composed of the Superintendent of the Circuit or his colleague, and the Stewards of the Circuit, at which the Superintendent of the Circuit shall preside. In case of his absence the Stewards shall elect a Chairman from among those present.

208. Let the Stewards be men of solid piety, who both know and love the Methodist Doctrine and Discipline, and of good natural and acquired abilities to transact the temporal business.

209. The duties of Stewards are: 1. To estimate the amount necessary to meet the expenses of the year, and report to the First meeting of the Quarterly Official Board. 2. To meet at least once a quarter, previous to the meeting of the Quarterly Official Board, to take an exact account of what has been collected for the support of the ministers or probationers for the ministry on the Circuit, and to recommend to the Quarterly Official Board such measures as they may think necessary in order to the prompt payment of the ministers. 3. To make an accurate return of every expenditure of money, whether to the ministers and probationers, the sick or the poor, and to publish yearly an audited financial statement, under direction of the Quarterly Official Board. 4. To seek the needy and distressed, in order to relieve and comfort them. 5. To inform the minister of any sick or disabled persons. 6. To attend the meetings of the Quarterly Official Board of their Circuits. 7. To give advice, if asked, in planning the Circuit. 8.

To provide the elements for the Lord's Supper. 9. To write circular letters to the Societies in the Circuit to be more liberal, if need be, and to let them know, when occasion requires, the state of the temporal concerns at the last meeting of the Quarterly Official Board. 10. To fill up the Circuit Schedules correctly; and to be subject to the President, the Chairman of the District and the ministers on their Circuits. 11. To audit the books and accounts of Trustees, in accordance with Section 11 of the Model Deed.

210. The Stewards shall be accountable for the faithful performance of their duties to the Quarterly Official Board of the Circuit.

211. In case of the death or disability of a Steward, the ensuing meeting of the Quarterly Official Board may fill up the vacancy.

212. The duties of the Recording Steward are: 1. To keep a correct record of the proceedings of the Quarterly Official Board. 2. To fill up correctly the Circuit Schedules and the Schedules of the Sunday Schools of the Circuit, for presentation to the Annual District Meeting. 3. To act as Treasurer of the Quarterly Official Board, unless the Board elects some other person to that office.

213. When a Recording Steward of a Circuit or Mission becomes incapacitated for the duties of his office, the Superintendent of the Circuit shall have authority to appoint another of the Stewards to that office, until the next meeting of the Quarterly Official Board, when his place shall be supplied according to Discipline.

Part III.

ADMINISTRATION OF DISCIPLINE.

ADMINISTRATION OF DISCIPLINE.

CHAPTER I.

TRIALS AND APPEALS.

SECTION I.

General Principles.

214. All our Church Courts shall be presided over by a duly qualified Minister of The Methodist Church.

215. If the Superintendent of a Circuit be the accuser, or a material witness, or be otherwise disqualified, the Chairman of the District shall preside in his place. If the Chairman of the District be disqualified, the President of the Annual Conference shall preside. If the President of the Conference be disqualified, the senior qualified Chairman in the Conference (that is, senior in the ministry of the Church) shall preside. Where two or more qualified Chairmen of Districts are apparently of the same *status*, in case they do not agree, the General Superintendent, on application of either party, shall decide which Chairman shall preside. A Chairman or a President, not disqualified, may appoint a duly qualified substitute, who shall be officially of at least equal *status* with the officer whose duty it would have been in the first place to preside.

216. If any minister, probationer or member of the Church has a knowledge or reliable information of an offence by a minister, probationer or member against the law of God or the rules or Discipline of the Church, it shall be his duty to lay a charge before the proper authority. No other person can institute charges. All charges shall be in writing.

217. If the offence be such as does not seem to require a trial in the first instance, let the officer whose duty it would be to preside at the trial admonish or reprove the accused, and if there be contrition and promise of amendment, let him be borne with; if there be no contrition or promise of amendment, or if the offence be repeated, let a trial be had.

218. A copy of the charges and distinct specifications, with a notice in writing of the time and place of trial, shall be given to the accused at least two weeks before the day fixed for the trial by the officer who is to preside. When these are sent by mail, they must be posted at least fifteen days before the day fixed for trial.

219. Notices may be given personally, or left with a grown-up person at the residence of a party, or by a registered letter.

220. A Committee of Trial shall consist of five qualified persons. Three shall form a quorum, and three at least must agree to render a decision. The officer who is to preside at the trial shall summon the persons who are to compose the Committee. Persons preferring or promoting charges, or being material witnesses, shall not be qualified to act as members of the Committee.

221. No peremptory challenges of members of the Committee shall be allowed, but either party may challenge for cause. The presiding officer shall decide upon all challenges.

222. The parties may appear and conduct a trial or an appeal, either personally or by a representative who is a member of the Church in good standing; but such representative shall not be a professional counsel.

223. If an accused person do not appear after proof of due notice, the trial may proceed and the decision be rendered in his absence.

224. The presiding officer shall cause a record to be kept of the charges, proceedings, evidence and decision.

225. In an appeal or charge against any minister, probationer or member, either party shall be entitled to be furnished with certified copies of the charges, proceedings, evidence and decision, or extracts therefrom, as he may require, on applying to the officer having custody of same, and by paying a reasonable fee therefor. Certified copies of such charges, proceedings, evidence and decision, or of extracts therefrom, shall be received as evidence in any case or proceeding as of the same value as the originals would be.

226. The Committee shall receive any evidence or information pertinent to the case that may be available, and that may aid them in their judgment in doing justice between the parties. The testimony of non-members may be received.

227. Any of the above evidence may be taken by a Commission for the taking of evidence, which may be

issued by the presiding officer at the trial, which evidence shall be forwarded to the Court having jurisdiction in the case. The Commissioner, in executing the Commission, shall follow the rules of evidence. Each party to the appeal shall have notice of the time and place of executing the Commission, and the opportunity of attending with his witnesses before such Commissioner, and of cross-examining the witnesses of the other party.

228. The presiding officer shall decide as to the admissibility of evidence, and as to law and procedure.

229. Charges may be amended or added to in writing at any time if the Committee consider the same to be in the interest of justice, provided the accused be allowed such opportunity as the Committee think reasonable to meet such amended or new charges.

230. The Committee may, from time to time, make any adjournments they may deem necessary for the better hearing and trial of matters before them. The findings on each specification shall be recorded in detail.

231. In all cases of trial the presiding officer shall refrain from delivering any charge to the Committee or from interfering in any way with their deliberations, and he shall not be present with them while they are deliberating on their decision.

232. If the Committee do not agree upon a decision within a reasonable time, the presiding officer may summon another Committee and proceed as if no trial had taken place.

233. Before accepting the decision of the Committee, it shall be the duty of the presiding officer to require that

the findings and sentence of the Committee shall correspond, and be in accordance with the Discipline.

234. A copy of the decision certified by the presiding officer shall be served within six days after the rendering of the decision upon each party in the manner hereinabove provided for notices.

235. If the accused be found guilty and the offence be such as is expressly forbidden by the Word of God and sufficient to exclude a person from the kingdom of grace and glory, he shall be expelled, suspended for a period not exceeding one year, or reprimanded, as the Committee or Appellate Court may decide to be adequate to the nature of the offence. In the case of a minister (other than the General Superintendent) or of a probationer for the ministry, he shall be suspended from the time he is found guilty by the Committee until the Annual Conference finally disposes of the case. In the case of a member, the enforcement of the penalty shall be suspended until the expiry of the time allowed for appeal, and if appeal is taken until the appeal has been disposed of.

236. In case of a minor offence, the accused, if found guilty, shall be suspended, reproved, admonished, or otherwise dealt with as the Committee or Appellate Court may determine. In these cases the decision shall be enforced from the time it is rendered until set aside on appeal.

Appeals.

237. Either party may appeal from a decision or ruling by the presiding officer, or from the decision of a Committee.

238. Notice of intention to appeal must be given to such presiding officer, to the Respondent, and to the presiding officer of the Court appealed to, with grounds of appeal, within sixty days from the time of service of notice of the decision complained of. Such last-mentioned officer shall cause the appeal to be heard, and disposed of as speedily as possible after receiving such notice of appeal, with proof of service thereof upon the above-mentioned parties.

239. If an appeal be taken on any question of law to one Court, and another appeal on questions of fact to another Court, the hearing of the latter appeal shall be postponed until the former appeal shall have been disposed of.

240. The officer who has presided at a trial shall not preside or vote on the appeal, nor shall any member of the Committee.

241. If the complainant do not proceed either before the Committee or on appeal, any other qualified person may be admitted to do so.

242. In appeal, the evidence taken before the lower Court or Committee alone shall be received. If further important evidence is available, a new trial may be ordered, or the case referred back to the Committee.

243. The Appellate Court may confirm, reverse, alter or amend the decisions appealed from, or may order a new trial or a reference back to the Committee.

244. The judgment of the Appellate Court takes effect without any action of the Court from which the appeal was taken.

245. No other authority than the proper Church Appellate Court or Courts shall in any way review or interfere with the action of the lower Court or Committee.

246. When a charge is preferred, the officer before whom it is laid may refuse to entertain it, if, in his judgment, the charge is frivolous; the complainant may then appeal as in cases of appeal from decisions of presiding officers.

247. Any decision shall have effect throughout the whole Church. Any minister or probationer who is suspended shall not be permitted to exercise any ministerial functions during the term of his suspension.

Section II.

TRIAL OF MINISTERS AND PROBATIONERS FOR THE MINISTRY.

General Superintendent.

248. A General Superintendent is amenable for his conduct to the General Conference, which has power to reprove, suspend or expel him for improper conduct, as may be deemed necessary.

249. 1. If a charge be laid against a General Superintendent, the President of the Annual Conference to which he belongs, or within which the offence is alleged to have been committed, shall preside at the trial.

2. The Committee shall be composed of qualified Chairmen of Districts, but, if a sufficient number are not avail-

able, Superintendents of Circuits shall be selected to complete the Committee. If the accused be found guilty, he may be suspended or dealt with as the circumstances may require.

3. Either party may appeal to the General Conference Special Committee. If there be no appeal, the decision of the Committee of Trial shall be in force until the next General Conference. If there be an appeal, the decision of the General Conference Special Committee shall be in force until the next General Conference.

President of Conference.

250. 1. If a charge be laid against the President of an Annual Conference, the senior qualified Chairman of a District within his Conference, or the President of the Annual Conference within which the offence is alleged to have been committed, shall preside at the trial.

2. The Committee shall be composed of Chairmen of Districts; and in the event of a sufficient number of them not being qualified and available, shall be completed with Superintendents of Circuits.

Chairman of a District.

251. If a charge be laid against a Chairman of a District, the President of the Annual Conference to which he belongs, or within which the offence is alleged to have been committed, shall preside. The Committee shall be composed as in the case of a President of an Annual Conference.

Other Ministers or Probationers.

252. 1. If a charge be laid against any other minister or a probationer for the ministry, the Chairman of the District to which he belongs, or within which the offence is alleged to have been committed, shall preside. The Committee shall be composed of ministers.

2. In any case in which an offence is charged to have been committed in an Annual Conference other than that to which the accused belongs, and jurisdiction to try the charge is claimed in more than one Conference, the General Superintendent shall, upon application by either party, after such notice to the other party as the General Superintendent may deem sufficient, determine in which Conference the trial shall be held.

3. In any case in which an offence is charged to have been committed in a District other than that to which the accused belongs, but within his Annual Conference, and jurisdiction to try the charge is claimed in more than one District, the President of the Annual Conference shall, upon application by either party, after such notice to the other party as the President may deem sufficient, determine in which District the trial shall be held.

253. In the case of the trial of a minister (other than a General Superintendent), or of a probationer, the whole of the evidence and papers shall be laid before the next ensuing Annual District Meeting to which he belongs, for its information, and subsequently forwarded to the Annual Conference. If the decision be rendered between the holding of the Annual District Meeting and the Confer-

ence, the documents shall be forwarded directly to the Annual Conference.

Appeals.

254. Either the accuser or the accused may appeal from the decision of the Committee to the next ensuing Annual Conference to which the latter belongs; that is to say, to the ministerial members thereof in special session. The decision of the latter shall be final, subject only to appeal to the Court of Appeal.

Arbitration, Inquiry, etc.

255. In case of a dispute or difficulty between ministers and probationers, or between ministers or probationers and members, relative to secular business, the payment of debts, or matters not otherwise provided for, the officer whose duty it would be to preside at the trial if a charge were laid shall inquire into the circumstances of the case, and may recommend an arbitration, over which he shall preside, or that a charge be laid, or that it be settled by process at law. If an arbitration be recommended, each party shall choose an arbitrator (who must be a minister or member of our Church), and these two shall choose a third. Two may make an award. An appeal shall lie to the Annual District Meeting from a decision refusing to recommend an arbitration, or from an award. If either party refuse to arbitrate when recommended, or to be bound by the award, or the decision in appeal, let a charge be laid and a trial had.

256. If a minister or probationer shall have contracted debts which he is not able to pay, let the Chairman of the

District appoint a Committee of Inquiry, composed of three ministers; and, if in their opinion, he has acted dishonestly, or contracted debts without a probability of paying them, let their report be considered as a charge, and let a trial be had thereon.

257. If a minister or probationer engages in any secular business or work that may detract from his ministerial character or usefulness, or interfere with the proper discharge of the duties assigned him by the Church, let him be admonished by his senior in office, and if he persist, let a charge be laid and a trial had. Selling our own books is not subject to this provision. Ministers and probationers are strongly recommended not to become members of the secular boards of any trading company or any corporate body organized for the purpose of trade, or for the investment of other than Church funds.

258. When a minister or probationer holds and disseminates, publicly or privately, doctrines which are contrary to our Articles of Religion and doctrinal standards, let a charge be laid and a trial had.

Section III.

Trial of Members.

259. If a charge be laid against a local preacher or exhorter, the Superintendent of the Circuit shall preside at the trial. The Committee shall be composed of local preachers or other official members within the District.

260. If a charge be laid against any other member of the Church, the Superintendent of the Circuit shall preside. The Committee shall be composed of members within the District. It is recommended that, except for special reasons, members of the Quarterly Official Board of the Circuit be not on the Committee.

Appeal in the Case of Members.

261. In the case of the trial of a local preacher, exhorter, or any other member, an appeal shall lie either to the Quarterly Official Board or to the Annual or Financial District Meeting when the laymen are present. If the appeal be to the Quarterly Official Board, and the decision be there confirmed, there shall be no further appeal. If the decision of the Committee be there reversed, the Respondent may appeal to the Annual or Financial District Meeting, and its decision shall be final, subject only to appeal on questions of law.

262. In a case of a dispute or difficulty between members relative to secular business, the payment of debts, or matters not otherwise provided for, the officer whose duty it would be to preside at a trial if a charge were laid, shall inquire into the circumstances, and may recommend an arbitration, or that a charge be laid, or that the matter be decided by a process at law, as the circumstances may require. If he recommend an arbitration, the proceedings shall be as hereinabove provided.

263. When a member fails in business, or contracts debts which he is unable to pay, or is charged with non-payment of debts, the officer whose duty it would be to

preside, if a charge were laid, shall appoint a Committee of Inquiry, composed of three members, and if they report that he has acted dishonestly or has contracted debts without the probability of paying them, let their report be considered as a charge, and let a trial be had thereon.

264. No person shall, after trial and expulsion as aforesaid, have any privileges of society or of sacrament in the Church without contrition, confession and proper reception on trial.

FORMS OF PROCEDURE IN TRIALS.

265. The Forms in Appendix VII. may be used, but their use shall not be obligatory, and no proceeding shall be declared null or set aside on a merely formal objection.

Part IV.

TEMPORAL ECONOMY.

TEMPORAL ECONOMY.

CHAPTER I.

SUPPORT OF MINISTERS.

266. It shall be the duty of the Stewards to estimate the amount necessary to meet the salary and expenses of the Minister or Probationer stationed on any Circuit or Mission; subject, however, to the approval of the First meeting of the Quarterly Official Board, according to the following rules:

1. The appropriation for salary of a married Minister shall not be less than $750 per annum, exclusive of the necessary expenses for incidentals, rent or free use of parsonage, and exemption from taxes and moving expenses.

2. The appropriation for the salary of an ordained single Minister shall not be less than $450 per annum, exclusive of the necessary expenses for incidentals.

3. The appropriation for the salary of a Probationer for the ministry shall not be less than $350 per annum, exclusive of the necessary expenses for incidentals.

[The foregoing appropriations are not in force till after the Conferences of 1903.]

4. The allowances to the children of Ministers will depend upon the practice of the respective Annual Conferences, under the Constitution of the Children's Fund.

267. One Minister and one Layman shall be appointed by each District Meeting to act with the Chairman of the District as a Committee to visit all missions and weak circuits in the District and ascertain the amounts that can be contributed by each congregation. If such amounts be not raised, the District Meeting shall consider the advisability of discontinuing the appointment.

CHAPTER II.

CHURCH PROPERTY.

SECTION I.

Churches and Church Property.

268. Let all our churches be built plain and decent, and not more expensive than is absolutely necessary.

In order more effectively to prevent our people from contracting debts which they are not able to pay, the erection of a new church or the rebuilding or enlargement of an existing one shall not be proceeded with until after the Chairman of the District and the Quarterly Official Board of the Circuit shall have given their approval.

269. It shall be the duty of the Quarterly Official Board of every Circuit where it is contemplated to build a church or parsonage, to secure the ground or lot on which such church or parsonage is to be built, according to our

Deed of Settlement, which deed must be legally executed; and also, said Quarterly Official Board shall appoint a judicious committee of at least three members of our Church, who shall form an estimate of the amount necessary to build; and three-fourths of the money, according to such estimate, shall be secured or subscribed before any such building shall be commenced.

270. All Church property shall be legally secured, and the deed registered within one year after its execution.

271. In future, we will admit no charter, deed or conveyance, for any church to be used by us, unless it be provided in such charter, deed or conveyance, that the trustees of the said church shall, at all times, permit such ministers and preachers belonging to The Methodist Church, as shall from time to time be duly authorized by the Conference or by the ministers of our Church, to preach and expound God's Holy Word, and to execute the Discipline of the Church, and to administer the Sacraments therein, according to the true meaning and purport of our "Book of Discipline" and Model Deed.

272. When it is proposed to erect a new church within the bounds of any Circuit or Mission, the Superintendent of such Circuit or Mission shall notify the Chairman of the District, indicating the proposed site, and the Chairman shall notify the Superintendent of any Circuit or Mission affected thereby; and if objection be made, and the parties cannot agree, then the difficulty shall be settled by arbitration.

Section II.

Parsonages.

273. It is recommended by the General Conference that parsonages be provided and furnished on all of our Circuits and Missions, wherever practicable, for the use of our ministers and their families, and that such parsonages be secured according to our Deed of Settlement; or where this is impracticable, that suitable houses be rented.

274. It shall be the duty of the Superintendents and Ministers to use their influence to carry the above rules respecting building and renting houses for the ministers and their families into effect. In order to this, each Quarterly Official Board shall appoint a Committee (unless other measures have been adopted), who, with the advice and aid of the Superintendent and Ministers, shall devise such means as may seem fit to raise moneys for that purpose. And the Annual Conferences shall make special inquiry of their members respecting this part of their duty.

275. In case of the Division of Circuits, in any form involving separate claims on parsonage property, and where an amicable settlement cannot be reached in any other way, it shall be the duty of each Quarterly Official Board concerned to appoint an arbitrator; these two thus chosen shall choose a third, to whom the whole case shall be submitted. In case either of the Circuits concerned fail to appoint an arbitrator, or the two chosen fail to agree upon a third, within one year after such division, it shall be the duty of the Chairman of the District to

appoint one. The decision of the arbitrators shall be in all cases final, and must be given within two years of said division of Circuit.

Section III.

Record of Church Property.

276. In order to prevent forgetfulness and loss of Church property, a correct inventory of all our property, whether lands, churches, parsonages or furniture, shall be kept.

277. The Book Steward, for the time being, shall be the Registrar, and shall provide and keep a proper book for the purpose, which book shall be laid before the General Conference for the inspection of its members.

278. Each Superintendent shall return a list and description of all Church property within his Circuit, Station or Mission, to the Annual District Meeting next preceding the meeting of the General Conference, according to the General Conference Schedule; also the exact locality and other information needful, and whether, and where, the deeds are registered.

Section IV.

Of Trustees.

279. When a new Board of Trustees is to be created, it shall be done by the appointment of the Quarterly

Official Board, upon the nomination of the Superintendent of the Circuit, and shall consist of not less than five, nor more than twenty-one.

280. No person shall be eligible as a trustee to any of our churches, parsonages, school-houses, burial grounds or other property, who is not a member of our Church.

281. No person who is a trustee shall be ejected while he is in joint security for money, unless such relief be given him as is demanded, or as the creditor will accept.

282. When and so often as one or more of the said trustees, or of their successors in the said trust, shall die, resign his office as trustee, withdraw, or cease to be a member or members of The Methodist Church, according to the Rules and Discipline of the said Church, the vacant place of the trustee or trustees so dying, withdrawing, or ceasing to be a member or members of the said Church, shall be filled with a successor or successors, being a member or members of the said Church, of the full age of twenty-one years, to be nominated and appointed as follows: that is to say, to be nominated by the minister having charge for the time being of the Circuit in which the said premises shall be situate, and thereupon appointed by the surviving or remaining trustee or trustees of the said trust, or a majority of them, if he or they shall think proper to appoint the person or persons so nominated; and, in case of an equal division of the votes of the trustees present at any meeting of the trustees held for the purpose of such appointment, the minister in charge of the said Circuit shall have a casting vote in such appointment; and if it shall happen at any time that there shall

be no surviving trustee of the said trust, in every such case it shall and may be lawful for the minister aforesaid to nominate, and the Quarterly Official Board of the Circuit, if they approve of the persons so nominated, to appoint the requisite number of trustees of the said trust by a vote of the majority of the members of the said meeting then present; and, in case of an equal division of their votes, the Chairman of the said meeting shall have the casting vote in such appointment, and the person or persons so nominated and appointed trustee or trustees in either of the said modes of nomination and appointment, shall be the legal successor or successors of the said above-named trustees, and shall have in perpetual succession the same capacities, powers, rights and duties as belonged to and were exercised by the original trustees.

Section V.

Of Keeping Trustees' Records.

283. 1. It shall be the duty of the trustees, for the time being, to keep a book of record in which the names of the trustees shall be entered, together with the names of their respective successors, giving in each case the date when each became a trustee, and the date when each ceased to be a trustee, and the cause of his ceasing to hold the office.

2. It shall be the duty of all trustees of church property to insure said property to at least three-fourths of the cash value of the perishable property.

Part V.

EDUCATIONAL AND BENEVOLENT INSTITUTIONS.

EDUCATIONAL AND BENEVOLENT INSTITUTIONS.

CHAPTER I.

EDUCATIONAL.

Section I.

EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY.

284. In order to combine in one effort the entire educational work of our Church, Societies for that purpose shall be formed on all Circuits and Missions, on the following Constitution :

I. *Name.*

285. This Society shall be known as "The Educational Society of The Methodist Church."

II. *Objects.*

286. The objects of this Society shall be to assist in maintaining our Connexional Universities and Colleges and Theological Institutions; to defray the expenses of the examination of candidates for the ministry in our Church, and to aid such candidates in obtaining a suitable education

III. *Members.*

287. All subscribers of one dollar per annum and upwards shall be members of the Society and entitled to a copy of the Annual Report.

IV. *Management.*

288. 1. The management of the Society shall be vested in a General Secretary of Education and two General Treasurers, together with a Board of Management, to be appointed by the General Conference, one of whom shall be the General Superintendent.

2. All expenditures of the funds of the Society must be made by resolution of the Board of Management, unless ordered by Discipline or by special direction of the General Conference.

3. No new Educational Institution shall be initiated by any Church Court or Board without the consent of the General Conference, or during the period between sessions of that Conference without the consent of the General Conference Special Committee.

V. *Duties of the General Secretary.*

289. It shall be the duty of the General Secretary to publish the Annual Report of the Society; and to take all measures possible in harmony with the other officers and Boards of our Church to increase the income of the Society, and to oversee and promote the interests of our educational work throughout the Dominion. He shall also, with the Secretary of the Board of Management, be authorized to

secure uniformity among Conference Treasurers in the administration of the Educational Fund. He shall attend to the early collection of overdue notes given to secure loans from the Educational Fund.

VI. *Duties of the General Treasurers.*

290. It shall be the duty of the General Treasurers:

1. To receive and account for the funds of the Society, and to disburse the same as ordered by the General Conference, or by the Board of Management through the Secretary, and to present an audited account of the same to each General Conference. All notes given by students for loans shall be held in trust by the General Treasurers, who when they mature shall, under the direction of the Board of Management, take steps for their collection, placing to credit of each Conference Treasurer amounts collected on notes made by students of such Conference.

2. To remit to each College at the opening of the session the amount of fees to which students attending the College are entitled. These fees shall not exceed $20 for each student, and shall be a grant and not a loan.

3. To remit to students the amount of the Standard Loan, as announced by the General Secretary, one-half not later than December 15th, and the remainder before April 15th, in each session.

4. To obtain at the close of the session from each student, on a form issued or approved by the General Secretary, a promissory note, payable within ten years, without interest, securing the said loan. To all students paying their notes before maturity, either in whole or in part, a discount

shall be made of 5 per cent. per annum on unexpired term of loan.

VII. *Branches.*

291. 1. A Conference branch of the Society shall be organized in each Annual Conference, under the management of a Committee of such Conference, composed as follows:

2. The President of the Conference, and four ministers and four laymen, and a Secretary and a Treasurer appointed by the Annual Conference.

3. A Circuit branch of the Society shall be organized on each Circuit or Mission, under whose direction meetings, where practicable, shall be held, at which the claims of our educational work shall be placed before our people, and collections and subscriptions taken for the funds of the Society.

VIII. *Sources of Income.*

292. 1. Sermons shall be preached on behalf of the Society, and subscriptions and collections taken up in aid of its funds, in all our churches and preaching places, at such time as may be directed by the Financial District Meeting. The Newfoundland Conference may retain for its own use for theological students such funds as it may raise for educational purposes.

2. A special collection for the Educational Fund shall, wherever practicable, be taken up in each Sabbath School annually, on a Sunday to be appointed by the Superintendent of the Circuit in consultation with the Superintendent of the Sunday School.

IX. *Division of Income.*

293. Of the prospective income, including cash brought down:

1. One-fourth along with all refunds of loans shall be distributed as an aid fund *pro rata* according to the recommended proportion of aid; *i.e.*, full or half aid, among the students appointed to College from the various Conferences to cover fees and loans. No student, however, shall receive either loan or fees who has not travelled as a probationer one year.

2. The remaining three-fourths shall be charged with:

(*a*) Examination and Conference Treasurers' expenses.

(*b*) Salaries of the officers of the Society and other expenses of administration.

(*c*) Aid to Universities and Colleges by division of balance, as follows:

Victoria University, 40 per cent.; University of Mount Allison College, 14 per cent.; Wesleyan Theological College, Montreal, 18 per cent.; Wesley College, Winnipeg, 18 per cent.; Albert College, 5 per cent.; Columbian Methodist College, 5 per cent.

X. *Annual Conference Committee.*

294. Each Annual Conference Committee shall meet at the time and place of the meeting of its Conference for the following purposes:

1. To consider the cases of all Probationers recommended by District Meetings to attend College, and propose to Conference the College they shall attend, and to

report to the General Treasurers the names of students who have travelled at least one year, and are recommended for aid, either to receive fees only, or Standard Loan in full or in part along with fees. Undergraduates of Victoria or Toronto University shall be appointed to Victoria University; those of McGill to the Wesleyan Theological College. Other students in the Central Conferences shall be divided between Victoria University and the Wesleyan Theological College, as these Conferences may, respectively, decide. Students of the Western Conferences shall be appointed to Wesley and Columbian Colleges, and those of the Eastern Conferences to the University of Mount Allison. Nevertheless, should there appear sufficient reason for doing so, a student may be permitted to attend some other of our Connexional Institutions.

2. To examine and order payment of the approved accounts of expenses of examinations within the bounds of the Conference.

XI. *Equalization of Loans.*

295. 1. Before the first of November in each year the Conference Treasurer shall ascertain the names of probationers in actual attendance at College, and shall forward to the General Secretary of Education a list of such as are recommended for aid.

2. The General Secretary having received said returns from all the Conferences, except Newfoundland, shall determine from said returns the average amount of aid available for each Probationer, with corresponding reduction where only partial aid is sought. Provided always

the aggregate amount of aid given in said revision shall not exceed the total amount available.

3. The loans to theological students are to be repaid in five equal instalments without interest, the first instalment to be due in two years, and the whole within seven years after their being received into full Connexion.

XII. *Duties of Annual Conference Treasurers.*

296. 1. To report to the General Secretary a list of students recommended for aid.

2. To see, in the case of any Minister or Probationer proposing to sever his connection with the ministry of our Church, that all loans are refunded before his credentials are given him by Conference.

3. To have his books duly audited at the close of the Conference year, and to send audited statement with cash on hand to the General Treasurer immediately after the Annual Conference.

Section II.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Introduction.

297. For the thorough organization and government of the Sunday Schools of The Methodist Church, the following directions are given :

1. It shall be the duty of every Superintendent Minister to see that, so far as possible, there shall be a Sunday

School in connection with each congregation under his charge; such school to be kept open, if at all practicable, during the whole year.

2. In organizing a new school, the Superintendent of the Circuit shall appoint, with the concurrence of the Quarterly Official Board, a suitable person to superintend the same, and the person so appointed shall, with the concurrence of the Superintendent of the Circuit, appoint the necessary officers and teachers, and proceed to organize the school in harmony with the following Constitution:

I. *Name.*

298. This School shall be known as the.....Methodist Sunday School, and shall be under the supervision of the Quarterly Official Board of the.....Circuit or Mission.

II. *Management.*

299. The management of the School shall be vested in a Committee consisting of the Minister or Ministers in charge on the Circuit, the officers and teachers of the School, and not less than three, nor more than five, other persons, members of the Church, nominated by the Superintendent of the Circuit at the second meeting of the Quarterly Official Board, and elected by said Board. The persons so elected shall enter upon the duties of their office at the next ensuing meeting of the Committee of Management.

If there is a Home Department, the officers and visitors shall for all purposes of School management rank as teachers.

III. *Instruction.*

300 The instruction given in the School shall be the doctrines of the Word of God as expounded in the recognized standards of The Methodist Church. The Methodist Catechisms shall be taught in each School.

IV. *Officers.*

301. The officers of the School shall be a Superintendent, Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian, Superintendent of the Home Department, and such other officers as may in the interests of the Schools be found desirable to appoint. The Superintendent and his assistant or assistants must be members of The Methodist Church.

V. *Elections.*

302. The Committee of Management shall annually elect at its regular meeting nearest to the first of May all the officers and teachers of the School, and on the nomination of the Superintendent of the Home Department the visitors of that department. (1) The Superintendent of the Circuit shall nominate for the office of Superintendent of the School two or more persons, and the Committee of Management shall elect by ballot. (2) The Superintendent of the School, after his election, shall nominate two or more persons for each of the other officers of the School, and the Committee of Management shall elect by ballot. (3) The teachers and visitors of the Home Department shall be elected by the Committee of Management, on the nomination of the Superintendent. (4) Vacancies that may occur in the lists of officers and teachers and visitors

of the Home Department shall be filled from time to time by the Superintendent, subject to the approval of the ensuing meeting of the Committee of Management.

303. Meetings of the Committee of Management shall be held quarterly, or as much oftener as the Committee shall, by resolution, decide, a report from which meeting concerning the state of the School shall be presented at the next ensuing meeting of the Quarterly Official Board. (1) Where practicable, there shall be a meeting of the teachers for the study of the lesson. (2) Special meetings of the Committee of Management may be called at any time by the Secretary, at the request of the Superintendent of the Circuit or the Superintendent of the School. Due notice of the nature of the business to be transacted, together with the time and place of meeting, shall be given to each member of the Committee. No other than the special business thus noticed shall be transacted at special meetings.

Order of Business.

1. Devotional exercises.
2. Calling the roll.
3. Reading minutes of previous meeting.
4. Unfinished business.
5. Reports: of Superintendent, Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian, Home Department, Committees and Special Meetings.
6. Elections.
7. Miscellaneous.
8. Closing exercises.

VI. *Anniversary.*

304. A public Anniversary meeting of the School shall be held in the month of.....in each year, when the reports of the School, as adopted by the Committee of Management, shall be read, the officers and Committee for the year announced, and such other exercises as, in the judgment of the Committee, may be deemed expedient.

General Principles.

305. The Superintendent of the Circuit shall be Chairman of all Sunday School Committees. In his absence, the Superintendent of the School shall preside. The Superintendent of the Sunday School shall be a member of the Quarterly Official Board of the Circuit.

306. No person shall be permitted to retain a position as an officer or teacher whose character or religious opinions, in the judgment of the Committee of Management or Quarterly Official Board of the Circuit, shall be deemed a sufficient ground of unfitness for service in our Sunday Schools.

307. In order that the Ministers may, from time to time, visit the Sunday Schools on their Circuits, it is recommended that an open meeting of the School be held for that purpose once a quarter; and, if necessary, at the time of the regular preaching service.

308. The Superintendent of the School shall present, at each meeting of the Quarterly Official Board, a report concerning the state of the School, and shall cause the Annual Schedule to be filled up, and present the same to the *Fourth* meeting of the Quarterly Official Board of the

Circuit. The Recording Steward shall prepare the Circuit Report, and forward it to the Annual District Meeting.

Recommendations.

309. It is strongly recommended that the several grades of Sunday School publications of our own Church be used in all our Schools, instead of irresponsible publications, which are often hostile to the doctrinal teaching of Methodism, and to the institutions of our country.

310. (1) It is recommended that all our Sunday Schools adopt a supplemental course of Bible study in addition to the lesson regularly studied. Such course should include memorizing in their order names of the Books of the Bible; the Commandments, Beatitudes and other special portions of Scripture; the Catechism, and Church Hymns; Bible history, geography, and institutions.

(2) It is strongly recommended that Normal classes for the training of teachers be established in connection with all our Sunday Schools.

311. It is also strongly recommended that every means be employed to secure the attendance of our Sunday School scholars at the regular services of the Church; and that special efforts be put forth, as the providence of God may indicate, for the conversion of the children, for their instruction in catechumen classes, and ingathering into the Church. It is strongly urged that Decision Day become an annual or semi-annual institution in all our Sunday Schools, and that the hearty co-operation of parents, pastors, superintendents and teachers be secured in order to make it successful. Preparatory to such a day, loving and faithful instruction should be given by the teachers con-

cerning decision for Christ, and those deciding should be formed into a class conducted by a suitable person, that they may be taught the duties and privileges of the Christian life previous to membership in the Church. Also, that the Sunday School idea be so developed as to promote the organization of congregational adult Bible classes in connection with all our Schools.

312. It is recommended that a Cradle Roll be formed in every Sunday School, in which shall be recorded the names of children too young to attend the sessions of the School, with a view to their being under the watchful care of the Sunday School.

313. It is recommended that a Special Sunday be set apart by the General Sunday School and Epworth League Board to be observed by all our Sunday Schools as Rally Day. Every effort should be put forth to bring together the forces of the Church and School for the season's work.

314. It is recommended that a Home Department for those who cannot attend Sunday Schools, but who can be induced to study the regular Sunday School lessons systematically, be organized whenever practicable.

315. It is recommended that there be an annual house-to-house canvass upon all our Circuits and Missions.

316. Constitution of the Home Department.

I. *Object.*

To encourage and assist those who cannot attend the Sunday School in the systematic study of the Sunday School lessons, and to have them identified with the Sunday School work of the Church.

II. *Officers.*

The officers shall be a Superintendent, Secretary and Treasurer.

III. *Management.*

The Home Department shall be under the management of the officers and visitors of this Department, and shall report, through its Superintendent, quarterly to the Sunday School Committee of Management.

IV. *Elections.*

The Superintendent shall be elected by the Sunday School Committee of Management, as provided for in Par. 302. The other officers and visitors shall be elected by the Committee of Management, on nomination of the Superintendent of the Home Department.

V. *Messengers.*

The boys and girls of the congregation may be employed by the Superintendent of the Home Department to carry to the members, Sunday by Sunday, books, papers, etc., thus assisting the visitors and training the boys and girls for the service of the Master.

Sunday School Temperance Work.

317. In all Sunday Schools of our Church earnest efforts shall be made to inculcate principles of total abstinence from all intoxicating liquors or injurious practices, and for this purpose the following pledge shall be provided in a book kept for record in School Department or Class:

(*a*) I solemnly promise to abstain from the use of all intoxicating liquors as a beverage, and to do all in my power to secure the prohibition of the liquor traffic.

(*b*) I solemnly promise to abstain from the use of tobacco in any form.

(*c*) I solemnly promise to abstain from the use of profane language and the reading of bad books and papers.

318. It is recommended that, unless otherwise provided, the Committee of Management arrange for a temperance meeting in the School once a quarter, at which meeting addresses shall be given in keeping with the above pledge, or pledges, and an effort made to induce all to subscribe thereto.

Constitution of the Sunday School Temperance Society.

319. 1. *Object.*—Its object shall be to promote the principles of total abstinence and prohibition, especially among the young.

2. *Membership.*—It shall be composed of all who take the pledge and sign the roll of membership.

3. *Management.*—The society shall be under the control of the Sunday School Committee of Management, which shall appoint the officers of the society. The pledge shall be that prescribed above.

4. *Meetings.*—The officers will arrange for meetings at least once in three months.

Sunday School Missionary Societies.

320. There shall be, wherever practicable, in connection with each Sunday School, a Missionary Society, for the

collection of Missionary money, the diffusion of Missionary information, and the cultivation of a Missionary spirit. It is also recommended that the Superintendent of the Circuit, in conjunction with the Superintendent of the School, shall secure, if possible, the presence of the Sunday School scholars at the Annual Meeting of the Missionary Society of the Church, and their participation in its services by singing missionary hymns and presenting their missionary offerings. It is recommended that at least seventy-five per cent. of all Sunday School collections be given to the Missionary Society.

Connexional Funds.

321. On Sundays on which the claims of the Educational Society, the Missionary Society and the Superannuated or Supernumerary Ministers' Funds are laid before the congregations, the Sunday School Superintendents are requested to explain to the Schools their objects, and to make collections on their behalf in the Schools.

Settlement of Difficulties.

322. Should any difficulty arise in connection with the School, which the Committee cannot satisfactorily adjust, the Minister, Superintendent of the School, or any three members of the Committee, may, on giving due notice to the Committee of their intention, refer the matter of dispute to the next meeting of the Quarterly Official Board of the Circuit, when the case shall be heard and finally decided.

DISTRICT MEETING.—SUNDAY SCHOOL WORK.

323. Each Annual District Meeting shall elect by ballot one Minister and one Layman to the Annual Conference Sunday School Committee.

324. Each Chairman of a District shall inquire at the May District Meeting, when the laymen are present, into the condition of the Sunday Schools on every Circuit by name, and call for the Schedules, which shall pass under careful review and be tabulated for the Annual Conference.

325. There shall be a Sunday School Convention held in each District, to be composed of all the Ministers and Probationers for the ministry in the District, all Superintendents of Schools, and two or more delegates from each Sunday School in the District; to be held in connection with the Financial District Meeting, or at such other time as the May District Meeting may determine. The exercises of said Convention shall consist of discussions on Sunday School matters, essays, Normal and model classes, public addresses, etc.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE.—SUNDAY SCHOOL WORK.

I. *Committee.*

326. There shall be a Sunday School Committee for each Annual Conference, composed of two members from each District, of which the President of the Annual Conference shall be the Chairman; but, in his absence, the Committee shall proceed to elect its own Chairman. It shall also elect a Secretary.

327. This Committee shall be a Standing Committee. It shall have power to elect from among its number an Executive of five members, whose duty it shall be to assist in carrying out the resolutions of the Conference and the suggestions made.

328. A Treasurer of the Sunday School Aid and Extension Fund shall be appointed by each Annual Conference, who may, or may not, be the Secretary of the Sunday School Committee.

329. It shall be the duty of the Committee to collect the statistics of the Districts, and prepare therefrom the Conference Report, and make such recommendations to the Conference as the necessities of the work may require from time to time.

330. It shall further be the duty of the Committee to communicate with Superintendents of Circuits and Missions, and Superintendents of Sunday Schools, during the year, and generally suggest improved methods of organization and to assist in advancing Sunday School interests.

331. (1) It shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Sunday School Committee to take charge of the books and papers belonging to our Sunday School work, and to act as corresponding secretary of the Conference. He shall make arrangements for the first meeting of the Committee, as soon after the opening of Conference as may be convenient, and shall continue in office until his successor is appointed.

(2) It shall be the duty of the Treasurer of the Sunday School Committee to receive all moneys for the Sunday School Aid and Extension Fund from the Financial Secre-

taries throughout the Conference, and forward the same to the General Treasurer, as hereinafter provided.

332. The Annual Conferences may appoint, either singly or in conjunction with one or more other Conferences, a Field-Secretary for Sunday School purposes, to operate within the boundaries of said Conference or Conferences, whose salary shall be provided by the Conference or Conferences so employing him. The Secretary thus appointed shall be subject to the direction of the Standing Sunday School Committee or Committees of the aforesaid Conference or Conferences.

II. *Annual Conference Meeting.*

333. There shall be a public Sunday School meeting held in connection with the Annual Conference, for which arrangements shall be made by the Committee appointed to prepare the plan of public services for the Conference, at which the Report of the Sunday School Committee shall be read, followed by addresses and discussions on Sunday School topics.

III. *Collections.*

334. An annual collection in aid of Sunday School work shall be taken up in all our schools, to be called the Sunday School Aid and Extension Fund collection. It is recommended that this collection be taken up at the open session of the School on the Quarterly Review Sunday in September, or at such other time as may be found most convenient. It shall be the duty of Superintendents of Circuits and of Chairmen of Districts to see that such collections are taken up.

335. The District Financial Secretaries shall receive such collections in the same manner as the other Connexional collections, and transmit the same to the Secretary of the Sunday School Committee of the Annual Conference, who shall forward the same to the Treasurer of the General Conference Sunday School Board.

336. This fund shall be employed in making, under such regulations as the Board may frame, grants of Sunday School periodicals and books to schools in destitute localities, and in promoting the establishment of new schools where none exist.

337. The Ontario section of the Sunday School Board may, if thought advisable, appoint a sub-committee, or Executive Committee, to make grants of books and transact other business.

IV. *Auditors.*

338. The Executive Committee of the General Board shall appoint an auditor, or auditors, whose duty it shall be to examine all the accounts of the Secretary-Treasurer, and report to the Ontario section of the Board; and once in four years to the General Sunday School Board. The said audit shall be submitted to the Annual Conferences, and published in some of the Sunday School periodicals.

339. Sunday School and Epworth League General Board.

I. *General Conference Board.*

There shall be a General Conference Sunday School and Epworth League Board, which shall consist of:

1. One Minister and one Layman from each Annual Conference, to represent the Sunday School section, who shall be nominated by the delegations of the Annual Conferences present at the General Conference and elected by the General Conference.

2. One member from each Annual Conference, to represent the Epworth League section, who shall be nominated by the delegations of the Annual Conferences present at the General Conference and elected by the General Conference.

3. One representative elected by each Annual Conference Convention of Young People's Societies, who shall be elected as provided in the Epworth League constitution.

4. The editor of the Sunday School periodicals, the General Secretary, and the Treasurers of the Sunday School and Epworth League sections of the Board.

II. *Powers of the Board.*

340. 1. The Board shall have general oversight of Sunday Schools and also of Epworth Leagues, and other Young People's Societies who may affiliate with the League; and shall have power to amend the constitution of Local Leagues (provided, however, that no enactment shall in any manner conflict with this constitution or the Discipline of The Methodist Church). The Board shall also arrange courses of reading and study for members of the Leagues, select topics for League meetings, and provide, through the Book Room, for the publication of such literature as in their judgment is necessary.

2. The Board shall fill by election any vacancy occur-

ring in the General Conference representatives during the Quadrennium.

3. In the absence of the General Superintendent at any of its meetings, the members may elect a chairman, *pro tem.*

4. All members of both sections of the Board shall have the right of voting on all subjects coming before the Board, whether relating to Sunday Schools or Epworth Leagues.

III. *Officers.*

341. The officers of the Board shall be a President (who shall, *ex officio*, be the General Superintendent), six Vice-Presidents—one for the Sunday School section of the Board and one each for the five departments of the Epworth League section, the Editor of the Sunday School periodicals, a Treasurer for each section of the Board, and the General Secretary, who shall be the Secretary of the Board.

IV. *Executive Committee.*

342. There shall be an Executive Committee, which shall be composed of the General Superintendent, General Secretary, Editor of Sunday School periodicals, the Treasurers and four other members—two from the Sunday School section and two from the Epworth League section. This Committee shall advise the General Secretary in his work, and attend to any necessary business between the meetings of the Board.

V. *General Secretary.*

343. There shall be a General Secretary, who shall be

known as the General Secretary of Sunday Schools and Epworth Leagues. He shall conduct Sunday School and Epworth League correspondence and attend to the general business of the same. He shall edit the monthly Epworth League paper, under the direction of the Western Section of the Book Committee, and shall be a member of the said Committee. He shall travel throughout the Connexion, promoting the organization and interests of Sunday Schools and Epworth Leagues along Conference and District lines, aiding pastors in the establishing and developing of Sunday Schools and Senior and Junior Epworth Leagues, carrying out the policy of the General Conference in doing so. He shall hold Sunday School Conventions or Institutes, and Institutes for Bible study and training in Christian work. He shall endeavor to promote a Connexional Sunday School and Epworth League literature. He shall visit, as far as possible, District and Conference Conventions. He shall endeavor to inculcate the principle of systematic beneficence in our Sunday Schools and Epworth Leagues, and aid in increasing contributions to the Sunday School Aid and Extension Fund and Epworth League funds. He shall cause to be forwarded all necessary Sunday School and Epworth League schedules. He shall conduct all correspondence with reference to the making of grants from the Sunday School Aid and Extension Fund, and perform such other duties as may be required by the Board or its Executive, it being understood that he shall not interfere with the functions of the ministers or other officers of the Church in their prescribed duties.

VI. *The Treasurers.*

344. The Treasurers shall receive all collections and other funds belonging to their respective sections of the Board, pay the same out on the order of the Executive Committee of the Board, prepare statements for each annual meeting of the Board, and Quadrennial reports for the General Conference.

VII. *Meetings.*

345. 1. An annual meeting of the members of the Board, representing the Conferences in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, and two members representing the Conferences of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland; also one member representing the Conferences of Manitoba and the North-West, and British Columbia, to be held at such time and place as the General Superintendent shall direct. The representative members of the Board from the Conferences other than those in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec shall be chosen by the Board.

2. It shall be competent for the members of the Board residing in other Conferences to meet annually, in joint or separate meetings, under the direction of the General Superintendent, for the management of the Sunday Schools or Local Leagues and other Young People's Societies within their jurisdiction. Where such meeting is held the Secretary thereof shall report the proceedings to the General Secretary of the Board, and in other respects they shall be corresponding members of the Board.

3. Distinctively Sunday School work shall be considered at one sitting, and distinctively Epworth League work at another sitting of the annual meeting of the Board, thus allowing full time for the thorough consideration of both interests.

VIII. *Revenue.*

346. 1. The revenue of the Sunday School section of the Board shall be derived from the Sunday School Aid and Extension Fund, and that of the Epworth League section from an annual collection or contribution from each League and other Young People's Societies affiliated with the League, or the Board may devise other ways and means of providing additional revenue.

2. The salary and expenses of the General Secretary shall be paid out of the revenues under the control of the Board, in such proportions from each section as the Board may decide.

3. The Editor of the Sunday School periodicals shall superintend the selection, examination and recommendation of suitable books for Sunday School libraries, and publish and circulate catalogues of the same.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE—EPWORTH LEAGUE COMMITTEE.

347. There shall be an Annual Conference Epworth League Committee, composed of one Minister and one Layman, elected by the District Meeting. To this committee are to be referred all matters affecting the League in connection with the Annual Conferences. The Conference Treasurer of the Epworth League Fund shall be *ex officio* a member of the Committee.

348. General Epworth League Constitution.

Preamble.

For the purpose of promoting intelligent and vital piety among the young people of the Methodist Church; training them in active Christian work; promoting the study of the Bible and Christian literature, there shall be an organization under the authority of the General Conference, governed by the following Constitution:

Name.

1. The name of the organization shall be "The Epworth League of the Methodist Church."

Objects.

2. The objects shall be to unite its young people in Christian fellowship and service; increase their spirituality by edification in Scripture truth and by prayer; instruct them in Methodist doctrine and Church history; enlist their co-operation in missionary activities through existing denominational organizations, and stimulate and interest them in the formation and development of Leagues.

Control.

3. The control of the General Society shall be vested in the Sunday School and Epworth League Board.

The General Epworth League shall be the recognized parent Society, of which local Leagues shall be branches.

Affiliation.

4. Any Christian Endeavor Society, whose President is a member of the Methodist Church and approved of by the Quarterly Official Board may become affiliated with the Epworth League by adopting the name "Epworth League of Christian Endeavor," and any Epworth League may become affiliated with the Society of Christian Endeavor by adopting as a local name "Epworth League of Christian Endeavor."

REPRESENTATION ON QUARTERLY OFFICIAL BOARDS.

5. The Presidents of all Epworth Leagues and Epworth Leagues of Christian Endeavor shall, on being approved by the Quarterly Official Boards, become members of the same, and shall so continue so long as they remain Presidents.

DISTRICT CONVENTIONS.

6. An Epworth League Convention may be held annually in each District.

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES.

7. Each District Convention shall elect a representative to the Annual Conference Convention, as a member of its Executive Committee.

CONFERENCE CONVENTIONS.

8. The members of Epworth Leagues, within the boundaries of any Conference, may organize and hold a Convention of Epworth Leagues and other Methodist Young People's Societies once in two years.

CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVES.

9. When any such Convention is held, it shall be competent for it to elect one representative to the Sunday School and Epworth League Board, who shall hold office for two years, which election shall be reported to the next ensuing Annual Conference.

In case of failure of such election, the Annual Conference Epworth League Committee may nominate, and the Annual Conference elect, a representative to the Sunday School and Epworth League Board.

QUADRENNIAL CONVENTION.

10. Under the direction of the Sunday School and Epworth League Board, there may be held each quadrennium a Young People's Convention for the whole of the Church.

349. Conference Constitution of the Epworth League.

Article I.—Name.

This organization shall be called "The Epworth League of the .....Conference."

Article II.—Object.

The object of the Conference League shall be to aid and help the Leagues and other Young People's Societies, and the members thereof, within its jurisdiction, to accomplish the purpose set forth in the Epworth League Constitution:

1. By increasing their spirituality.
2. By improving their methods of work.
3. By becoming better acquainted, so as to be more helpful to each other.
4. By assisting in organizing new societies in the Districts of the Conference, and promoting in every way possible the efficiency of those already organized by co-operation with the General Secretary in his work.

Article III.—Representation in Convention.

All Leagues or Methodist Young People's Societies whose "aims and methods of religious work" are similar to those set forth in the Epworth League Constitution shall be eligible for representation and entitled to vote, the scale of representation being one official delegate for every twenty members or fraction thereof.

Article IV.—Officers.

The officers of the Conference League shall be: Honorary President, who shall be the President of the Annual Conference; President, five Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, and the representatives on the Epworth League Board, who shall hold office until their successors are elected at the next Biennial Convention.

Article V.—Executive.

The officers of the Conference League and the representative from each District League within the bounds of the Conference, elected as provided by the General Constitution of the Epworth League, shall compose the Executive Committee, and may be convened at any time by the President.

Article VI.—Elections.

A Nominating Committee, composed of the Honorary President, the President and five other members elected by ballot by the Convention (only one ballot to be taken and the five having the highest number of votes to be declared elected), shall, at each Biennial Convention, nominate two or more candidates for each office, to be elected by the Convention by ballot.

Article VII.—Duties of Officers.

1. The President shall perform the duties usually appertaining to that office, and watch over and help forward the interests of the Societies in the Conference.

2. The first four Vice-Presidents shall, in the order named, be appointed to further the work of the Societies in the Conference in the different departments, as described in the Constitution of the Local Leagues.

3. The fifth Vice-President shall assist in the organization and development of Junior Leagues throughout the Conference.

4. The Secretary shall make and have charge of all records, conduct the correspondence, give notice of meetings, and attend to all the other duties of his office.

5. The Treasurer shall receive all moneys belonging to the Conference League, and disburse the same at the direction of the Executive, upon order of the President and Secretary.

Article VIII.—Conventions.

There shall be a Biennial Convention of this Conference League. The Executive Committee shall fix the time and place, unless arranged for at the Convention, and provide the programme.

Article IX.—By-Laws.

By-laws may be adopted in harmony with this Constitution.

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350. Constitution for District Epworth League.

Article I.—Name.

This organization shall be called "The Epworth League of the .....District."

Article II.—Object.

Its object shall be to assist its Leagues and members in accomplishing the different purposes set forth in the Epworth League Constitution:

1. By increasing their spirituality.
2. By improving their methods of work.
3. By becoming better acquainted, so as to be more helpful to each other.
4. By assisting in organizing new Leagues on the District, and promoting in every way possible the efficiency of those already organized.

Article III.—Membership.

All members of Leagues or other Young People's Societies in the District whose "aims and methods of religious work" are similar to those set forth in the Epworth League Constitution, shall be eligible for membership in the District League, and shall be entitled to vote.

Article IV.—Officers.

The officers of the District League shall be: Honorary President, who shall be the Chairman of the District; President, five Vice-Presidents, the representative of the District on the Conference Executive, Secretary and Treasurer, who shall hold office until their successors are elected at the next Annual Convention.

Article V.—Executive.

The officers of the District League and one representative from each local League in the District shall compose the Executive Committee, and may be convened at any time by the President.

At each District Convention, a Business Committee of five persons shall be elected by ballot immediately after devotional exercises; the five receiving the highest number of votes on the first ballot to be declared elected. This Committee shall appoint the officers for the ensuing year, and report to the Convention.

Article VI.—Duties of Officers.

The President shall perform the duties pertaining to that office, and watch over and help forward the interests of the Leagues and societies in the District.

The first four Vice-Presidents shall, in the order named, be appointed to further the work of the Leagues and societies in the District in the different departments, as described in the Constitution of Local Leagues. The fifth Vice-President shall assist in the organization and development of Junior Leagues throughout the District.

The Secretary shall make and have charge of all records, conduct correspondence, give notice of meetings, and attend to all the other duties of the office.

The Treasurer shall receive all moneys belonging to the District League, and disburse the same at the direction of the Executive upon the order of the President and Secretary.

Article VII.—Conventions.

There shall be an Annual Convention of the District League. The Executive shall fix the time and place, unless arranged for at the previous Convention, and provide the programme.

Article VIII.—By-Laws.

By-laws may be made in harmony with this Constitution.

351. Constitution of the Local Societies.

Motto:

"Look up, lift up, for Christ and the Church."

Article I.—Name.

This organization shall be known as the Epworth League of the Methodist Church of ————, and shall be represented by its President on the Quarterly Official Board of said Church, and shall be a Branch of the General Epworth League of the Methodist Church.

Article II.—Object.

The object of the League is (*a*) to save souls; (*b*) to promote an earnest, intelligent, practical Christian life in the young members and friends of the Church; (*c*) to assist them in the study of God's Word; (*d*) to increase their usefulness in the service of God and humanity.

Article III.—Membership.

There shall be three classes of members:—Active, Associate and Honorary.

1. *Active Members* shall be persons who are members of the Methodist or some other Christian Church, and who have taken the pledge hereinafter given, known as the Active Member's Pledge.

2. *Associate Members.*—Persons of good moral character may become Associate Members of the League. It is expected that all Associate Members will habitually attend the religious and other meetings of the League, and that they will, in time, become Active Members thereof; but their names may be removed from the roll after six months' non-attendance upon meetings. Associate Members may serve on committees and be entitled to all the privileges of membership, by taking the Associate Member's pledge, but shall not be eligible for office.

3. *Honorary Members.*—All persons who, though no longer young, are still interested in the League and wish to have some

connection with it, though they cannot regularly attend the meetings, may become Honorary Members, and shall be allowed to vote on all matters of business except the election of officers and the adoption of by-laws. Their names shall be kept upon the list under the appropriate heading, but shall not be called at the roll-call meeting. It is understood that the League may look to the Honorary Members for financial and moral support in all worthy efforts.

Any person willing to become a member of the League will be furnished with a pledge card and constitution. He will sign the pledge and hand it to the Lookout Committee, who will confer with him and report to the Executive, who shall, if satisfied of his eligibility, recommend him to the League as a member at the next monthly consecration meeting.

The pastor of the church shall be *ex officio* an Active Member of the League.

Article IV.—Departments.

The work of the League shall be carried on in four departments, as follows:

1. Christian Endeavor. 2. Missionary. 3. Literary. 4. Social.

The distribution of work under each department shall be as follows:

Christian Endeavor—(*a*) Young People's prayer-meeting; (*b*) Monthly consecration meeting; (*c*) Lookout work and spiritual welfare of members; (*d*) Junior League work; (*e*) Sunday School interests; (*f*) Evangelistic work, such as open-air and cottage meetings.

Missionary—(*a*) Missionary work; (*b*) Temperance and social purity; (*c*) House-to-house visiting and tract distributing.

Literary—(*a*) Systematic Bible study; (*b*) Essays and literary work; (*c*) Epworth League Reading Course.

Social—(*a*) Welcoming and introducing members; (*b*) Musical and social entertainments in harmony with the spirit of Christianity; (*c*) Employment bureau; (*d*) Badges and decorations.

Organization of Departments.

An Epworth League may be organized in the Christian Endeavor Department only. If thought desirable, the departments of Christian Endeavor and Missionary may be amalgamated under one Vice-President. The Christian Endeavor Department shall be essential and fundamental in the organization and working of an Epworth League. It is optional with every League how far it will develop the Missionary, Literary and Social Departments. It is strongly advised that wherever practicable all the departments be organized, with the object of more fully carrying on the aims of the Christian Endeavor Department.

Article V.—Officers and their Duties.

1. The officers shall be an Honorary President (who shall be the Pastor), a President, four Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, and a representative to the District Executive Committee (who shall be Active Members of the League).

2. The President shall be a member of The Methodist Church, and shall be elected at the annual meeting of the League. The Superintendent of the Circuit, who shall be Chairman of the annual meeting, shall nominate two or more persons for the office, and the election shall be by ballot.

3. All the other officers shall be elected by open nomination and ballot without debate, at the annual business meeting. No officer shall be declared elected by less than a majority of the members present and voting.

4. The President of the League, on being approved by the Quarterly Official Board, shall be a member thereof, and shall report at each meeting of the Board, as to the progress and general condition of the League. He shall also fill up and present the Annual Statistical Report of the League to the fourth meeting of the Quarterly Official Board of the Circuit or Mission.

5. The President of the League shall perform the duties usually pertaining to that office, watch over the interests of the League, and it shall be his care to see that the different committees perform the duties devolving upon them.

6. The Vice-Presidents shall also, in the order named, represent and have charge of the departments of Christian Endeavor, Missionary, Literary and Social work. They shall aid the President as he may request. (*a*) The first Vice-President shall have charge of the Christian Endeavor Department, having under his direction the Lookout, Prayer-meeting, Evangelistic and Sunday School Committees. (*b*) The 2nd Vice-President shall have charge of the Missionary Department and the committees connected therewith. He shall circulate missionary literature, encourage the adoption of some systematic method of giving, and make arrangements for holding missionary meetings. (*c*) The 3rd Vice-President shall have charge of the Literary Department. It shall be his duty to interest the members of the League in Bible study, and wherever practicable, organize an Epworth League Reading Circle. He shall give attention to the circulation of our Connexional literature. (*d*) The 4th Vice-President is expected to arrange plans by which new comers will be visited, strangers welcomed, and the social interests of the League and Church promoted.

7. The Recording Secretary shall make and have charge of all records, also a complete record of membership from the first, give notices of meetings, and attend to all other duties of his office.

8. The Corresponding Secretary shall conduct all correspondence; and, when necessary, write to absent members and read replies before the League at his discretion. Immediately after his election he shall forward a list of the new officers to the General Secretary, and also to the District Secretary.

9. The Treasurer shall collect all dues and receive all moneys, disbursing the same at the direction of the League, upon order of the Secretary, countersigned by the President. He shall obtain the annual collection for the General Epworth League Fund, and shall hand it to the Superintendent of the Circuit, who shall pay it to the Financial Secretary of the District.

10. For the purpose of enlisting all in the work and rendering it more effective, the Executive Committee shall assign each member to at least one department of work. Each Vice-President shall name to the Executive Committee, committees for the management of his department, that officer being *ex officio* a member of each Committee.

11. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Superintendent of the Circuit, the officers of the League, the ex-President of the League, and the Chairmen of the various Standing Committees. All matters of business requiring debate, recommendations concerning finance, and proposed changes, shall be brought first before this Committee, and by it reported either favorably or adversely to the League.

12. Each committee, except the Executive, shall report in writing, through its Vice-President, to the League at the monthly business meetings concerning the work of the past month.

Article VI.—Pledge.

Active Member's Pledge.

Taking Christ as my example, and trusting in the help of the Holy Spirit, I promise that I will endeavor to learn and do my Heavenly Father's will; that I will make stated seasons of private prayer and the daily study of the Bible the rule of my life. As an Active Member of the League, I will, except when excusable to my master, be present at and take part in the meetings of the Christian Endeavor Department, and will be true to all my duties as a member of the Church. I will abstain from all amusements and habits upon which I cannot ask God's blessing. I will honor God with my substance as He has prospered me. I will endeavor, by kindly words and deeds, to cultivate the spirit of Christian friendship and bring my young associates to Christ.

Associate Member's Pledge.

As an Associate Member, I am willing to serve on committees and to work as I may be required to advance the interests of the League, and will, by conversation, conduct and companions, endeavor to sustain its character as a Christian Society.

Article VII.—Meetings.

1. Regular religious meetings of the League should be held weekly.

2. A monthly consecration meeting shall be held.

3. Business meetings may be held after any regular meeting. Special business meetings may be called at any time by the President.

4. The following shall be the order of exercises at business meetings :

(*a*) Devotional Exercises.
(*b*) Minutes.
(*c*) Report of Secretary.
(*d*) Report of Treasurer.
(*e*) Reports of Departments.
(*f*) Reports of Special Committees.
(*g*) Proposals for Membership.
(*h*) Unfinished Business.
(*i*) New Business.
(*j*) Adjournment.

5. At any business meeting ..... members shall constitute a Quorum.

6. The League year shall close at the same time as the ecclesiastical year ; and the Annual Meeting for the election of officers shall be held on the ..... evening in the month of April in each year. The Superintendent of the Circuit shall preside at the annual meeting. Each officer shall present a written report of the work in the department under his charge during the year.

7. A collection for the expenses of the Sunday School and, Epworth League Board shall be taken up annually, at some meeting previously announced before the Annual District Meeting and forwarded by the Superintendent of the Circuit to the Financial Secretary of the District, and by him to the Conference Treasurer of the General Epworth League Fund, who will pay it to the Treasurer of the Epworth League Section of the Sunday School and Epworth League Board. The Conference Treasurer may or may not be the Secretary of the Conference League Committee.

Article VIII.—Committees.

The following committees may be appointed to take charge of the work of the departments :

1. Christian Endeavor.

Lookout.—It shall be the duty of this Committee to bring new members into the League, to introduce them to the work and to the other members, and affectionately to look after and reclaim any that seem indifferent to their duties, as outlined in the pledge, and to report each month on the spiritual condition of the members of the League to the Superintendent of the Circuit.

Prayer-meeting.—It shall be the duty of this Committee to have in charge the prayer-meeting, and to see that topic is assigned and a leader appointed for every meeting, and to do what it can to secure faithfulness to the membership pledge.

Evangelistic Work.—This Committee shall devote itself to personal effort for the "winning of souls."

Sunday School.—This Committee shall endeavor to bring into the Sunday School those who do not attend elsewhere, and visit absentees upon notification of absence for two Sundays, and to aid in the efficient working of the Junior League.

2. Missionary.

Missionary.—This Committee shall promote the interests of the Missionary Anniversary, the Woman's Auxiliary and the Mission Band, and seek to interest the members of the League in all ways in Missionary topics.

Temperance and Social Purity.—This Committee shall provide for the promotion of total abstinence *from*, and the legal prohibition *of*, alcoholic beverages, and also seek to elevate public opinion regarding the law of personal purity, and the maintenance of the same moral standard for men and women.

Visiting and Relief.—This Committee shall visit sick or afflicted members, provide volunteer watches or nurses, furnish material comforts, when necessary ; under the direction of the pastor to visit the neighborhood, invite strangers to the Church, report and

relieve, when possible, cases of distress, distribute tracts and do any other similar Christian work.

3. Literary.

Literary.—This Committee shall provide the intellectual exercises and entertainments of the League by means of lectures, debates, essays, literary programmes, etc. It shall have charge of all "courses of study" pursued by the members, and of "reading courses" in connection with the League.

4. Social Work.

Social.—(1) It shall be the duty of this Committee to promote the social interests of the League by welcoming strangers to the meetings, and by providing for the mutual acquaintance of the members. (2) Where practicable, under the direction of the Superintendent of the Circuit, in our central churches to provide parlors, reading rooms and kindred facilities for social enjoyment conducive to the proper development of Christian character.

Floral Offerings.—This Committee may provide flowers for the pulpit on Sunday, and distribute them to the sick at the close of the services.

Article IX.—General Regulations.

1. All the Active Members are expected to be present at every prayer-meeting, unless detained by some absolute necessity, and each Active Member is expected to take some part, however slight, in every Christian Endeavor meeting. At the close of the meeting some time should be taken for introduction and social intercourse, if desired.

2. Once a month a consecration meeting for religious experience and testimony should be held, at which each Active Member shall speak concerning his progress in the Christian life, or renew his vows of consecration. If any one chooses, he can express his feelings by an appropriate verse of Scripture or other quotation.

3. At each testimony or experience meeting the pledges shall be read and the roll called, and the responses of the members who are

present shall be considered as a renewed expression of allegiance to the pledge. It is expected that if any one is obliged to be absent from this meeting he will send a request to be excused by some one who attends, accompanied, if possible, with at least a verse of Scripture, to be read in the response to his name at the roll call.

4. If any Active Member of the League be absent from this monthly meeting and fail to send an excuse, the Lookout Committee is expected to take the name of such an one, and in a kind and brotherly spirit ascertain the reason for the absence.

5. It is to be understood that the Junior League does not interfere with our class meetings, but is intended to assist in securing the religious instruction and spiritual nurture of the children. It is also to be clearly understood that membership in the Junior League does not necessarily imply membership in the Church.

Article X.—Reception of Members.

The following Form, for the reception of new members into our Leagues and Societies, is commended to them for adoption and use, in order that all members, both old and new, may have frequently impressed upon them the full meaning and importance of their obligations.

On Consecration Night, after the roll has been called, the names of all candidates will be read, who will then come forward; while coming forward the members will sing a consecration hymn, after which all will bow heads in silent prayer. The Pastor or President will then say:—

"Dear Friends,—We rejoice that you have recognized your duty to God, to humanity and to yourself, by signing our pledge, which we trust you understand clearly and appreciate fully.

"This organization is designed for the salvation of young people, their growth in Christian life, and their training in definite service, to look up and lift up for Christ and the Church.

"It is based upon the principle of Christian fellowship, and by it the young people of our Church are brought into close relation with one another, and are thereby enabled to edify one another in love.

"Let me remind you that as an Active Member you are pledged to support your Church and all its interests; to be present at every meeting of the Christian Endeavor Department of the League, unless hindered by some reason that you can give to God; if absent from a consecration service to send a response to your name; and to pray and read the Bible daily.

"As an Associate Member you will promise to attend the meetings regularly, and be willing to be known as one who desires to be surrounded by influences that will enable you to become an Active Member. Do you each cordially approve the object of the League, prayerfully accept your responsibilities, and earnestly promise, 'trusting in the help of the Holy Spirit,' to unite with us in our work?"

Candidate will answer, "I do."

Pastor or President, to the members:

"You have heard the response; all who are in favor of the reception of the candidate to membership in our League, and desire to extend a hearty welcome, will please rise."

The President, speaking for the League, may say:

"We, as a League, affectionately welcome you to our fellowship, and to a part in our Church work. We promise, under God's guidance, to be helpful, and to assist you to be loyal to our Saviour in all ways; and at this time we desire to consecrate ourselves anew to the Master's service in the words of our pledge." (All Active Members will remain standing and repeat the pledge with the new Active Members. Then the Associate Members will rise and repeat their pledge with the new Associate Members.)

A brief prayer will follow.

Then the President and Vice-Presidents will welcome them with a hearty handshake, and the Secretary will have them sign the Constitution, which is kept in a book for that purpose. While they are signing, a verse of "Blest be the Tie that Binds" is sung, after which a few minutes are spent in greetings by the whole Society.

ARTICLE XI.—BY-LAWS AND AMENDMENTS.

The League may make such By-laws, consistent with the above Constitution, as may be needed.

Amendments to the Constitution must be submitted, in writing, to the executive of the General Board, and when approved by it, may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of those present at any regular meeting, if notice has been previously given that the amendment would be voted on.

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352. CONSTITUTION OF THE JUNIOR EPWORTH LEAGUE.

ARTICLE I.

This organization shall be known as the Junior Epworth League, auxiliary to the Epworth League.

ARTICLE II.

The Junior Epworth League shall have a Superintendent, who shall be the pastor, or person approved by him, who shall be, when practicable, one of the Vice-Presidents of the Epworth League. The departments of Christian Endeavor and religious work of the Epworth League are especially expected to assist the pastor and the Superintendent of the Junior League in its work and the instruction of its members. Where there is no Epworth League, the Local Sabbath School Committee may make provision under the pastor, as above, and exercise control.

ARTICLE III.

The object of the Junior League shall be to systematize the work and assist the pastor and those appointed by him in the instruction

EXPLANATORY NOTE.—Any Junior League that adopts the title, "Junior Epworth League of Christian Endeavor," as a local name, will be entitled to fellowship in the Unions and Conventions of the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor.

and nurture of the catechumen classes, as provided in Discipline, and to promote in its members an earnest and intelligent spiritual life, and train them in works of mercy and help. The Junior League shall be so managed as to contribute to its interests both of the Sunday School and the ordinary juvenile church classes.

Article IV.

Members of the Junior League shall be boys and girls under fourteen years, except as may be otherwise determined as to age by each Local Branch of the Junior League for itself. After organization, persons shall become members by a majority vote at any regular meeting of the League.

Article V.

The earnest co-operation of the parents shall be solicited, and, where practicable, obtained. Meetings may be held Saturday afternoons or otherwise, as may be found convenient, for instruction in the Holy Scriptures, in our catechism, doctrines, history and biography; in moral movements and temperance reform; in all the spirit, manners and practices of the Christian life and intercourse; and in such other subjects as the pastor may choose and direct.

Article VI.

Any Junior Epworth League may adopt what departments of the ordinary Epworth League work it prefers; but must maintain those departments covering the ground contemplated in the disciplinary catechumen classes and the exercises necessary to give effect to the instruction there set forth.

Article VII.

The officers of the Junior League shall be the Superintendent, as provided in Art. II., who shall also be the Honorary President of the Junior League, and have oversight of the work and all its affairs; as many Assistant Superintendents (Honorary Vice-

Presidents) as there are departments at work, following the model of the Epworth League—a President, Vice-President, Secretary and a Treasurer. These officers, with the pastor, and under his presidency, shall form the Executive Committee of the League.

The officers, except those appointed, shall be elected annually by the members of the League at a regular meeting, shall assist the pastor in his provision for the leadership of the catechumen classes, and maintain the efficiency of their respective departments to the best of their ability.

ARTICLE VIII.

To meet expenses, voluntary collections may be taken in the League.

ARTICLE IX.

Modification of this constitution may be made by the Executive Committee in any locality to meet its special needs.

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353. BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE I. This Society shall be called the Junior Epworth League of*.....of.....

II. Its object shall be to win the boys and girls to accept Christ, to train them to work for Him everywhere and at all times, and to guide them in forming the right kind of Christian character.

III. Its *Active* Members shall be those between .... and .... years who shall show that they are trying to live a Christian life, and who sign the following Pledge, provided that none shall be retained in membership who are over sixteen years of age:

"'Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength, I promise Him that I will try to do whatever He would like to have me do; that I will pray and read the Bible every day; and that, just so far as I know how, I will try to lead a Christian life. I will be

*EXPLANATORY NOTE.—Any Society may fill this blank with "Christian Endeavor," and thus be entitled to fellowship in the Unions and Conventions of the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor.

present at every meeting of the Society when I can, and will take some part in every meeting."

Name.....

I am willing that.....
should sign this Pledge, and will do all I can to help.....
keep it.

Parent's Name .....

Residence.....

IV. *Associate* Members shall be those who wish to attend, and promise to keep good order when at the meeting. These shall have their names on the roll, and sign the following Pledge, but not serve as leaders for the meeting:

"I do hereby promise, with the help of God, to try always to do right; to read the Bible daily; to come to every meeting of the Society when I can, and to be attentive and orderly while present."

Name.....

I am willing that.....
should sign this Pledge, and will do all I can to help.....
keep it.

Parent's Name .....

Residence.....

V. The officers of the Society shall be a Superintendent, Assistant Superintendents, President and Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. There shall be a Lookout Committee, and such other committees as may be needed.

VI. The Superintendent shall have full control of the Society, and be its Honorary President.

The Assistant Superintendents shall aid the Superintendent in the work. The Assistant shall take care of the funds of the Society during the time between the meetings. There shall be as many Assistant Superintendents (Honorary Presidents) as departments at work.

The President shall conduct the business meetings, under the direction of the Superintendent, and see that the different committees perform the duties devolving upon them.

The Vice-President shall act in the absence of the President.

The Secretary shall keep a correct list of the members, take the minutes of the business meetings, and call the roll at each meeting.

The Treasurer shall take up the collections, enter the amount in the account-book, and turn over the money to the Assistant Superintendent, and also enter all expenditures as directed by the Superintendent.

VII. The Superintendent and Assistants shall be appointed by the Pastor, or by the senior Society (if one exists), with the approval of the Pastor. The other officers and committees shall be nominated by the Superintendent and Assistant, and elected by the Society. All officers shall be chosen once in six months.

VIII. A prayer-meeting shall be held once every week. A consecration meeting shall be held once a month, at which the pledge shall be read and the roll called, and the responses of the members shall be considered a renewal of the Pledge of the Society. If any member is absent from three consecutive consecration meetings without excuse, his name shall be dropped from the list of members.

IX. Part of the hour of the weekly meeting shall, if deemed best, be used by the Pastor or Superintendent of the Society for instruction, or for other exercises which they may approve.

X. The Committees and their duties shall be as follows:

The Lookout Committee shall bring new members into the Society, and affectionately look after and reclaim any who seem indifferent to their pledge.

The Prayer-Meeting Committee shall select topics, assign leaders, and do what it can to secure faithfulness to the prayer-meeting pledge.

The Social Committee shall welcome the children to the meetings and introduce them to the other members of the Society. They may also arrange for occasional sociables.

The Temperance Committee shall arrange for an occasional

temperance meeting, and circulate the following temperance pledge among the members:

"I do hereby pledge myself to abstain from the use of all alcoholic liquors as a beverage, from the use of tobacco in any form, from the use of profane language, the reading of bad books and papers, and to earnest efforts to secure the prohibition of the liquor traffic."

The Sunday School Committee shall secure the names of children who do not attend Sunday School and invite them to become members of the Sunday School.

The Missionary Committee shall try to interest the members in home and foreign mission work and arrange for occasional missionary meetings.

The Musical and Literary Committee shall endeavor to make the singing a success, provide for occasional literary meetings, and, where possible, try to carry on some definite plan of Bible study, or other reading course.

The Visiting Committee should call on strangers, visit the sick, try to render relief to the needy, distribute flowers and perform such other "deeds of mercy and help" as they can.

All committees shall meet at least once a month for consultation with the Superintendent in regard to their work.

Other committees may be added, according to the needs of local societies, and duties defined.

XI. The Junior Society, being a part of the Senior, should have all possible aid and support the latter can give it; and it is expected that when the members of the Junior have reached the age limit, they will enter the Senior Society as Active Members.

XII. Miscellaneous sections:

1. The regular meetings shall be held every .... from .... to ..... The last meeting of each month shall be a consecration meeting, and should be led by one of the Superintendents. The first meeting of each .... shall be a business meeting.

2. The officers shall be elected and committees appointed in .... and .....

3. A voluntary collection shall be taken at each consecration meeting, to help meet expenses of the Society.

4. Special meetings may be held by the Superintendent at any time.

5. All expenditures shall be made under the direction of the Superintendents.

6. The By-Laws may be altered or amended any time the Superintendents and Executive Committee of the Senior Society find it necessary.

Section III.

TEMPERANCE, PROHIBITION AND MORAL REFORM.

I. *General Conference Board.*

354. There shall be a General Conference Board of Temperance, Prohibition and Moral Reform, which shall consist of:

1. The General Superintendent, the General Secretary and the Treasurer.

2. The other members of the Board shall be divided into groups representing the different sections of the Dominion and Newfoundland. It shall be the duty of the several groups to promote and guard the interests of Temperance, Prohibition and Moral Reform, within their respective jurisdictions, under the principles laid down by the General Conference; and it shall be the duty of the whole Board to lend them all possible aid and to promote the Temperance reformation and all moral reforms by all proper means throughout the Dominion and Newfoundland. These groups shall be arranged and elected as follows:

Ontario.

3. There shall be one Minister and one Layman from each of the Annual Conferences in Ontario, viz., Toronto,

Hamilton, London, Bay of Quinte and Montreal, who shall be nominated by the delegations present at the General Conference and elected by the General Conference; also one Minister and one Layman elected annually by each of the above-named Annual Conferences.

4. The representatives on the other groups shall be elected as follows: One-half shall be Ministers and one-half Laymen. The General Conference shall elect one-half of the group on the nomination of the delegation in the General Conference of the Annual Conference having territorial jurisdiction; the other half shall be elected annually by the same Annual Conference. The numbers to be elected shall be as follows: Quebec, twelve; Nova Scotia, eight; New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, eight; Manitoba and North-West Territories, twelve; Newfoundland, four; and British Columbia, eight.

NOTE.—In order to provide that the Annual Conference representation on the Board shall be complete for the year 1902-3 the members to be elected by the Annual Conferences shall this year be elected by the Delegations of the respective Conference to this General Conference and shall hold office until the Annual Conferences elect their successors in 1903.

II. *Powers of the Board.*

355. 1. The Board shall have general oversight of our Temperance, Prohibition and Moral Reform work throughout the Church, and shall have authority to make representations to Governments, Legislatures and Parliament in harmony with the declared principles and policy of the General Conference, on all matters of legislation and administration which affect Temperance, Prohibition and Moral Reform.

2. It may arrange for the publication and circulation of suitable literature.

3. It may co-operate with other public bodies engaged in the same field of work.

4. The Board shall determine the salary of the General Secretary.

5. Each group of the Board shall fill by election any vacancy occurring in the General Conference representation caused by disability or transfer.

6. In the absence of the General Superintendent, the Board at any of its meetings may elect a Chairman, *pro tem.*

III. *Officers.*

356. The Officers of the Board shall be a Chairman (who shall be *ex officio* the General Superintendent), the Treasurer, and the General Secretary (who shall be Secretary of the Board).

IV. *Executive Committee.*

357. There shall be an Executive Committee, which shall be composed of the General Superintendent, the General Secretary, the Treasurer and six other persons, of whom three shall be Ministers and three Laymen. This Committee shall advise and direct the General Secretary in his work, and in the interval between meetings of the Board shall attend to any necessary business, and shall exercise all the authority of the Board. The Executive Committee shall be elected annually by the General Conference Board of Temperance, Prohibition and Moral Reform.

V. *General Secretary.*

358. There shall be a General Secretary, who shall be known as the General Secretary of Temperance, Prohibition and Moral Reform, and shall be elected by the General Conference. He shall be the medium of communication between the General Conference Board of Temperance, Prohibition and Moral Reform and all parts of our work; he shall conduct the correspondence of the department and attend to the general business of the same; he shall also collect and disseminate information bearing upon the work of this department of the Church. He shall propagate the principles and promote the policy adopted by the General Conference on Temperance, Prohibition and Moral Reform under the direction of the General Conference Board. He shall travel throughout our Church, holding Temperance, Prohibition and Moral Reform meetings in co-operation with Superintendents of Circuits and Chairmen of Districts, and when possible shall attend Temperance Anniversaries of Churches and other meetings of similar character, District Epworth League and Sunday School and Annual Conference Epworth League Conventions, and sessions of Annual Conferences, to present the claims of our Temperance Prohibition and Moral Reform work, and he shall be authorized to receive collections and contributions on behalf of that work. He shall report as directed by the Executive Committee concerning his work.

VI. *The Treasurer.*

359. The Treasurer shall receive all collections and

contributions given on behalf of this work, pay out the same on the order of the Executive Committee of the Board, prepare an annual statement for the Board and a Quadrennial report for the General Conference.

VII. *Meetings.*

360. 1. The members of the Board in the Ontario group may hold a meeting annually or oftener at such time and place as the General Superintendent may direct, or on the requisition of three members, and such meeting shall be considered the official meeting of the General Conference Board.

2. The members of the Board in any other group may convene as deemed advisable, under the call of their chairman or on requisition of two members. When such meeting is held the Secretary thereof shall report the proceedings to the General Secretary for the information of the Board, and in other respects they shall be corresponding members of the Board.

3. In case of a grave crisis arising affecting the whole Dominion, so that extraordinary action may seem needed, it shall be competent for the Executive Committee either to summon all the groups of the Board to meet in joint session, or to ask each group to appoint one or more of its members to meet in joint session with the Ontario group for purposes of consultation and action.

VIII. *Other Organizations.*

361. 1. Each Annual Conference may elect a Standing Committee on Temperance, Prohibition and Moral Reform.

2. The Quarterly Official Board on each Circuit may appoint a Committee on Temperance, Prohibition and Moral Reform, who shall have general oversight of that work within the bounds of the Circuit, and shall in co-operation with the Sunday School Committee and the Epworth League promote temperance principles and practice among all our people. The Superintendent of the Circuit shall be the Chairman of the Committee.

IX. *Revenue.*

362. 1. A public Temperance meeting or service shall be held annually on each Circuit and Mission, at which a sermon on Temperance or addresses on that subject shall be delivered. The question of Temperance shall be made the subject of exhortation and prayer, as may be profitable or necessary in our week-evening services.

2. A collection shall be taken annually on each Circuit and Mission, in order to defray the expenses of the temperance work. It may be taken at a service on Sunday, or at a meeting held some other time. The Superintendent of the Circuit shall pay the same to the Financial Secretary at or before the District Meeting.

3. Each Annual Conference shall appoint a Treasurer of the Temperance Fund to whom Financial Secretaries shall pay the collections received from Superintendents, who shall transmit the same to the Treasurer of the General Conference Board of Temperance, Prohibition and Moral Reform.

4. The General Secretary may also request and receive collections additional to the above, at meetings held and

addressed by him, and may solicit personal contributions from individuals in aid of the Temperance, Prohibition and Moral Reform work. All such amounts shall be paid to the Treasurer and acknowledged by him to the donor.

5. The salary and expenses of the General Secretary shall be paid out of the revenues of the Board.

Section IV.

363. *Ladies' Aid Societies.*

1. Superintendents of Circuits and Missions may, where desirable, organize Ladies' Aid Societies.

2. The purpose of such societies shall be the raising of funds for local Church purposes; and to assist in the visitation of the congregation, especially the sick and strangers, and such other objects as the Society may consider in the interests of the Church.

3. The officers shall be a President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and such other officers as the Society may deem necessary. The officers shall be elected annually.

Section V.

THE BOOK AND PRINTING ESTABLISHMENTS.

I. *The Book Committee—Its Powers and Duties.*

364. The General Conference shall, Quadrennially, appoint a Book Committee, to be composed of Ministers and Laymen residing within the bounds of the several Annual Conferences, as follows—Four members from each of the following Conferences: Toronto, London, Hamilton,

Bay of Quinte and Montreal, and one from the Manitoba Conference; from the Nova Scotia Conference, five members; from the New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island Conference, five members; and from the Newfoundland Conference, two members. These members shall be elected by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences, meeting separately, and with the Book Stewards, Editors and General Secretary of Sunday Schools and Epworth Leagues shall constitute the Book Committee for the Quadrennial term following their appointment.

365. At the first meeting after its appointment the Book Committee shall divide into two Sections, to be called, respectively, the "Western" and "Eastern" Sections of the Book Committee.

366. The Western Section shall consist of the members of the Committee residing within the bounds of the Toronto, London, Hamilton, Bay of Quinte, Montreal, Manitoba and North-West, British Columbia and Japan Conferences, eleven of whom shall form a Quorum for the transaction of business.

367. The Eastern Section shall consist of the members residing within the bounds of the Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland Conferences, seven of whom shall form a Quorum for the transaction of business.

368. The Western Section shall have the control and supervision of the Book and Printing Establishment in the City of Toronto, and of any other that may be established by the General Conference within the bounds of the Toronto, London, Hamilton, Bay of Quinte, Montreal,

Manitoba and North-West, British Columbia and Japan Conferences.

369. The Western Section of the Book Committee shall have power in case of emergency to modify, consolidate, rearrange or change the make-up or price of any of its publications so as to secure greater economy of production, increase of circulation or other advantages.

370. The Eastern Section shall have the control and supervision of the Book and Printing Establishment in the City of Halifax, and of any other that may be established within the bounds of the Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland Conferences.

371. Each Section shall elect its own Secretary, and, in the absence of a General Superintendent, shall appoint its own Chairman.

372. The Western Section and the Eastern Section shall meet annually on or before the third Wednesday in May, in Toronto and Halifax, respectively, when they shall fill up any vacancies that may have occurred in their numbers during the year. When vacancies occur in the Annual Conference representation on the Book Committee, by the transfer of such representative or representatives, the said vacancy shall be filled by the Conference thus affected at its next ensuing Annual Meeting.

373. The Committees shall examine the proceedings of the Executive Committee and the business of each establishment during the preceding year.

374. They shall provide for an annual valuation of the

stock, machinery, debts and other property, and annually appoint suitable persons to audit the accounts, and prepare a full and clear report to be laid before the Annual Conferences which they respectively represent.

375. They shall fix the salaries of the Book Steward or Book Stewards, and Editor or Editors.

376. If it shall be deemed desirable by the Eastern and Western Sections of the Book Committee, that the *Wesleyan* and *Christian Guardian* shall be amalgamated, they shall have authority to carry such amalgamation into effect, the concurrence of the Eastern Conferences affected having been first obtained, and with the same concurrence shall have authority to readjust the relation of the Halifax Book Room to the Book and Publishing House of Toronto as may be deemed expedient.

377. Each Section shall have authority to suspend either a Book Steward or Editor for incompetency or for culpable neglect of the duties of his office, and to supply his place until the next General Conference: *Provided always*, that no such suspension shall take place except by the vote of *three-fourths* of the members of the Section.

378. In case of the death, resignation or permanent disability of a Book Steward or Editor during his term of office, the Section having supervision of the establishment in which such vacancy occurs shall have power to appoint a successor to fill the office until the next General Conference.

379. At the end of each Quadrennial term they shall cause a correct valuation of the real property, stock, machinery, debts and other property to be made, entering

such property at its actual value, and report the same to the General Conference.

380. Each Section shall, at the close of the Quadrennial period, carefully review the Book and Publishing business within its jurisdiction of the preceding four years, and prepare a full report of the same to be presented to the General Conference.

381. A special meeting of the members of either Section, or of the Executive of either Section, may be called by a General Superintendent, or by the Book Steward and Editor, or by any three members.

382. All real estate and other property connected with the Book and Printing Establishment in the City of Toronto, and any other that may be acquired within the bounds of the Toronto, London, Hamilton, Bay of Quinte, Montreal, Manitoba and North-West, British Columbia and Japan Conferences, shall be vested in the Western Section of the Book Committee and their successors in office, who shall apply all profits not required in the business exclusively for the benefit of the Superannuation Fund within the bounds of the aforesaid Conferences.

383. All property connected with the Book and Printing Establishment in the City of Halifax, and any other that may be acquired within the bounds of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland Conferences, shall be vested in the Eastern Section of the Book Committee, and their successors in office, who shall apply all profits not required in the business exclusively for the benefit of the Supernumerary Ministers' and Ministers' Widows' Fund.

384. Each Section of the Book Committee shall also at its first meeting, and at each subsequent annual meeting, appoint an Executive Committee, who shall meet half-yearly and review the business of the preceding half-year; and shall advise and decide in all matters submitted for their consideration.

385. The Executive Committee of the Western Section shall consist of two members from each of the following Conferences: Toronto, London, Hamilton, Bay of Quinte and Montreal, with the Book Steward and Editors. Six shall constitute a Quorum.

386. The Executive Committee of the Eastern Section shall consist of *five* members—three of whom shall constitute a Quorum—who shall be selected from those members of the Eastern Section residing in the vicinity of the Book Room in Halifax.

387. Each Executive Committee shall appoint its own Chairman and Secretary, and keep a correct record of the business transacted at its meetings, which shall be submitted to the respective Sections of the Book Committee at their annual meeting.

388. All books which may be published by order of the General Conference, under the direction of any one of the existing Book Establishments, shall be furnished to the other establishment at cost.

II. *The Book Stewards.*

389. The General Conference shall elect by ballot a Book Steward, who shall have charge of the Book and Printing Establishment in Toronto, under the direction of

the Western Section of the Book Committee; and also a Book Steward, who shall have charge of the Book and Printing Establishment in Halifax, under the direction of the Eastern Section of the Book Committee.

390. It shall be the duty of each Book Steward to purchase all materials and books required for the establishment under his charge, keeping in view the mental wants of the Church, and the religious instruction of the people generally. *Nevertheless*, before purchasing plant or materials for improvement, involving unusual expenditure, he shall obtain the consent of the Executive Committee. He shall give the Committee such information as they may require concerning the state of the business, and present a half-yearly statement of the affairs of the Establishment to the Executive Committee. He shall also present annually to the meeting of his Section of the Book Committee a balance sheet exhibiting the financial state of the Book Room and periodicals, together with a cash account showing the sources whence the money has been received and the purposes for which it has been paid.

391. Each Book Steward shall conduct the business of his department in the most efficient and economical manner, and pay over to the Treasurer of the Superannuation or Supernumerary Fund such proportion of the profits as the respective Sections of the Book Committee shall determine.

III. *The Editors and Their Duties.*

392. The General Conference shall elect by ballot an Editor who shall have the editorial management of the

Christian Guardian, and an Editor of the *Canadian Methodist Magazine* and Sunday School Periodicals, under the direction of the Western Section of the Book Committee; and an Editor who shall have the editorial management of the *Wesleyan*, under the direction of the Eastern Section of the Book Committee. The General Secretary of Sunday Schools and Epworth Leagues is also Editor of the Epworth League paper under the direction of the Western Section of the Book Committee.

393. It shall be the duty of the Editors to make their respective periodicals soundly Scriptural and instructive, and to put forth all reasonable efforts to render them the means of promoting right views on social, moral and religious questions, and of stimulating the zeal of our people in supporting all our Connexional enterprises.

394. They shall likewise carefully supervise the printing of all books and periodicals published at the respective Book Rooms; and it is required that in all matters respecting the publication of the periodicals, the Book Stewards and Editors shall act in harmony.

395. The Book Stewards and Editors elected by the General Conference shall hold office for four years from the time of their election, or from one General Conference to another, and shall be eligible for re-election; but they shall continue in office, after the appointment of their successors, till the meeting of the Annual Conferences to which they belong.

CHAPTER II.

BENEVOLENT INSTITUTIONS.

SECTION I.

THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

I. *Name.*

396. This Society shall be known as "The Missionary Society of The Methodist Church."

II. *Object.*

397. The object of the Society is the support and enlargement of the Indian, French, Home, Foreign and other Missions, which are carried on under the direction of the General Board and the Conferences of The Methodist Church.

III. *Members.*

398. Every person paying annually the sum of Five Dollars and upward, and every person collecting annually Ten Dollars and upward for this Society, shall be deemed a member, and entitled to a copy of the Annual Report.

IV. *Auxiliary and Branch Societies.*

399. The Methodist Missionary Societies within the bounds of any Annual Conference shall collectively be

entitled "The Auxiliary Missionary Society" of that Conference, and severally shall be entitled "Branch Societies" of such Auxiliary. Every Sunday School shall be a Branch of the Conference Auxiliary. Epworth Leagues or other Young People's Associations may form Missionary Societies among their members as branches of the Conference Auxiliary, and students in Colleges may organize as elsewhere provided.

V. *Treasurers.*

400. Each Annual Conference may appoint a Treasurer, through whom all remittances to or from the General Treasurers may be sent. In case any Annual Conference does not make such an appointment, then all remittances to and from the Mission Rooms shall be made through the Chairmen of Districts of such Conference.

The Chairman of the District shall be *ex officio* the Treasurer of all Missionary money collected on his District.

The Superintendent of a Circuit or Mission shall be Treasurer of the Branch Society of his Circuit or Mission; but the Missionary Committee of the Circuit, or the Quarterly Board, if there be no Missionary Committee, may, at the request of the Superintendent and on his nomination, appoint a local Missionary Treasurer.

VI. *Remittances.*

401. The money raised on any Circuit or Mission shall be transmitted, as soon as collected, to the Chairman of the District, deducting only what has been disbursed for incidental and local expenses; and the District Chairman

shall, in turn, remit promptly to the General Treasurer, through the Conference Treasurer, or directly, if there be no Conference Treasurer.

VII. *Circuit Lists.*

402. The Superintendent of each Circuit or Mission shall prepare annually, not later than the first day of the Annual District Meeting, a list of all subscribers of Two Dollars and upward, also the aggregate of all collections and sums under Two Dollars; such lists to be sent without delay to the Conference Treasurer or the Chairman of the District, who shall immediately forward them to the Mission Rooms, together with a statement of the gross receipts, local disbursements and remittances. A copy of the Circuit list shall be kept by the Superintendent for reference and for the information of subscribers.

VIII. *The General Board.*

403. 1. There shall be a General Board for the management of the Missionary Fund, which shall meet annually at such time and place as it may appoint.

2. The General Board shall be composed of (*a*) the General Superintendent or Superintendents, the officers of the Society, the Corresponding Secretary for Manitoba and the North-West and British Columbia Conferences, and the Secretary of the Young People's Forward Movement *ex officio*; (*b*) six Ministers and six Laymen, elected by the General Conference, who shall hold office for four years; (*c*) one Minister and one Layman from each Annual Con-

ference, except British Columbia and Newfoundland Conferences, which shall be entitled to only one representative each, a Minister or Layman as the Conference may determine, to be elected by a joint vote of Ministers and Laymen, and who shall also hold office for four years.* The Japan Conference shall have such representation as is hereinafter provided for.

3. The Mission Council of each Foreign Mission shall have the right to elect one of its members as a representative to the General Board as often as this can be done without incurring the necessity of a journey home for that purpose, or at any time when the General Board or Executive Committee shall authorize such action.

4. The duties and powers of the Board shall be to review the missionary field of the Church at home and abroad; apportion the missionary funds to the various Conferences or other departments of the work; authorize the erection of mission houses, churches or buildings for educational purposes on other than home missions, and provide for the cost of the same when necessary; select through its responsible officers after consultation and agreement with Annual Conference authorities, Missionaries for the Indian and French work and for the Chinese and Japanese work in British Columbia, and fix annually the salaries and other allowances for the same; select and appoint Missionaries for the foreign fields and fix a scale of salaries and other allowances for Missionaries on such foreign fields, all

* The Annual Conferences of 1903 shall elect representatives for the remainder of the Quadrennium, and the Quadrennial elections shall begin with the Conferences of 1906.

scales to be subject to revision by the General Board at any of the annual sessions; grant furloughs to the missionaries in the foreign field when deemed expedient, or recall them permanently if considered necessary; decide when and where new missions may be opened in the Indian, French, Japanese, Chinese, or foreign fields; regulate and control the support of Missionaries on Home Missions, when proposed to be undertaken by any Church, Circuit or District; select and appoint teachers for mission schools, and fix their salaries; select and appoint Principals for the various Indian or other Institutes, and fix their salaries; take such steps as may be judged expedient to raise and increase the missionary income; pledge, hypothecate or mortgage the property under the control of the Board, when found necessary, as security for moneys obtained from Banks or other sources; and in general oversee and control the Mission work of the Church, in so far as this is not provided for in the constitution and powers of the Annual Conferences. The action of the Board in all matters within its jurisdiction shall be final.

5. If any elected member of the General Board become an *ex-officio* member of the Board, a vacancy is thereby created.

6. Vacancies among General Conference representatives shall be filled by the General Board or the Executive Committee; vacancies among Annual Conference representatives by the Conference or its Special Committee.

7. In the event of the death or disability of any of the officers of the Society, the Executive Committee shall

appoint a suitable person to fill the vacancy till the next meeting of the General Board, when such appointment may be confirmed or changed, pending the meeting of the next General Conference.

8. The Executive Committee shall also have authority to suspend any officer of the Society for incompetence or for culpable neglect of the duties of his office, and supply his place till the next meeting of the General Board, which shall have authority to fill the vacancy till the next General Conference.

IX. *Executive Committee.*

404. A Committee, to be called the Executive Committee, shall be annually appointed by the General Board, consisting of the General Superintendent, the officers of the Society, the Secretary of the Young People's Forward Movement, and eighteen other members—nine Ministers and nine Laymen—a majority of whom shall be members of the General Board, who shall meet at the call of the General Secretary to consider and decide any matters referred to them by the General Board; review correspondence from the mission field; consider and decide special claims or other accounts; fill vacancies among General Conference representatives on the General Board, or among its own members; and provide, *ad interim*, for any exigencies that may arise between sessions of the General Board. All the proceedings of the Committee shall be entered in a minute book, and reported to the General Board at its next annual meeting.

X. *Annual Meeting.*

405. An Annual Public Meeting of members and friends of the Society shall be held at the time and place appointed by the General Board, when an abstract of the Annual Report shall be presented, and such religious services held as may be deemed expedient.

XI. *General Officers and Their Duties.*

406. 1. The General Conference shall appoint the General Secretary, the Associate Secretary, and the Treasurers of the Missionary Society, who shall be *ex officio* members of the General Board. The Secretary of the Young People's Forward Movement shall be appointed by the General Board.

2. The duties of the General Secretary shall be chiefly administrative. He shall, previously to each Financial District Meeting, furnish each Chairman of a District with a Schedule to be filled up by said Chairman at the Financial District Meeting, showing the estimated income and expenditure of each Mission for the support of the ministers and preachers, the amount of missionary grant recommended by the Financial District Meeting, etc., etc., which Schedule shall be forwarded to the General Secretary without delay. From these Schedules he shall prepare a tabulated statement for the information of the General Board, in order that its members may intelligently and justly apportion the funds of the Society to the several Conferences, and other parts of the work. He shall also

publish the Annual General Report of the Society, with a statement of the income and expenditure.

3. The duty of the Associate Secretary shall be chiefly to visit as many of our fields as possible, to give information, awaken interest and promote liberality in the Mission cause.

4. In the discharge of their duties, the officers of the Society shall act in harmony with the legally appointed courts and officers of the General and Annual Conferences. In case of any emergency arising, that may require prompt action in the matter of supplying any remote Mission, it shall be competent for said officers, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, to request the proper authorities of any Annual Conference to aid them in meeting such emergency, by allowing one of its Ministers or Probationers to proceed to such Mission.

XII. *Regulations Respecting Home Missions.*

407. 1. The allowance of a Missionary shall be understood as including all the items of a Minister's support, such as salary, board, fuel and travelling expenses, but not house rent, horse-keep or hire, or incidentals.

2. The minimum allowance for a married Minister on a Home Mission shall be $750 per annum, with a free house; the house to be provided by the Mission. For single ordained men the minimum allowance shall be $450, and for single unordained men, $350.

3. A special committee of each Annual Conference shall make arrangements for a visitation of Home Mission fields by a deputation appointed for the purpose, who shall meet

the official members, and also the congregations, if they judge it necessary; inquire carefully into the circumstances of the people; point out the injustice of deficiencies under any circumstances, and the still greater wrong inflicted when amounts actually promised are not paid; indicate methods of increasing Circuit finances, and after careful consideration name the amount which, in their judgment, the Mission ought to raise, obtaining, if possible, the consent of the officials to the same. A written report shall be presented by the deputation to the ensuing Financial District Meeting, and shall be taken into account in recommending a grant from the Missionary Fund for the ensuing year.

4. In the appropriations of the General Board during the next Quadrennium 42½ per cent. of the amount appropriated each year shall be given to Home Missions.

5. When grants to Home Missions are finally determined, the proper authorities shall at once furnish an official statement of such grants to the District Chairman concerned, who shall, without delay, notify the Superintendents of the Home Missions within his District. The Superintendents shall at once notify their Official Boards, so that steps may be taken, if necessary, to raise such additional amounts as may be required to pay at least the minimum allowance above indicated.

6. The responsibility of providing the minimum allowance agreed upon, rests primarily with the people upon the mission, and not upon the Missionary Board. Grants from the General Fund are designed to aid, for a time, those fields wherein, owing to the limited numbers and scanty

means of the membership, the people are unable to support their own Minister.

7. The General Board may notify the President of an Annual Conference or the Chairman of a District, when deemed necessary and advisable, that grants to a particular Mission shall cease, or be continued on a diminishing scale to terminate in a certain period. When such notice is given, the President or Chairman shall notify the Quarterly Official Board of the Mission in question, so that steps may at once be taken to meet the changed conditions.

8. The Executive Committee of the General Board may arrange with Annual Conference authorities for a Commission of one or two persons to visit, as far as practicable or necessary, the Home Missions of the said Conference, with a view to such adjustment or readjustment of the work as will increase the number of independent fields and secure better support for our Home Missionaries. The Commission shall report, in writing, to the Annual District Meeting and Conference and the Board of Missions; and the Executive Committee may recommend, at its discretion, a sliding scale of grants with a view to the Missions becoming independent Circuits; and shall provide, in its discretion, for the necessary travelling expenses of such Commission.

XIII. *Corresponding Secretary and Local Superintendents.*

408. 1. In order to provide for increased and more authoritative supervision over our Home Mission work, especially in New Ontario, Manitoba, the North-West Territories and British Columbia, there shall be a Corre-

sponding Secretary for the Manitoba, and North-West, and British Columbia Conferences, and four Local Superintendents of Missions, one for New Ontario, two for Manitoba and the North-West, and one for British Columbia. The General Board of Missions may increase the number of Local Superintendents if the increase of population and the urgent needs of the work require it.

2. The Corresponding Secretary shall be elected by the General Conference. He shall be a member *ex officio* of the General Board, and of the Stationing Committees of the Conference within the territory under his supervision. His salary shall be fixed by the General Board. He shall have all the authority and powers of a Local Superintendent in any part of the field that he may visit; be the medium of communication with the Mission Rooms on all matters pertaining to missions within his jurisdiction; secure men for the work in the Manitoba and North-West, and British Columbia Conferences; act as Treasurer for said Conferences; and discharge such other duties as the General Board may from time to time direct.

3. The Local Superintendents shall be elected by the General Board, which shall have authority to fix their salaries, and travelling or other expenses, to fill vacancies and make changes when found necessary or advisable.

4. Each Local Superintendent shall be *ex officio* a member of the Stationing Committee of the Conference which has jurisdiction over his field.

5. The Local Superintendents shall (*a*) give special attention to the development and organization of the work on new ground; (*b*) form new missions where considered

necessary; (*c*) readjust existing missions when, in their judgment, this will tend to self-support; (*d*) organize Quarterly and Trustee Boards on new fields, when practicable, such work to be reported to the ensuing Annual District Meeting and Annual Conference of the territory in which such organization takes place; (*e*) preside in the absence of the Superintendent in the Quarterly or Trustee Boards of those Circuits or Missions on which Probationers or supplies are stationed; (*f*) secure sites for Churches and Parsonages; (*g*) advise respecting the erection of necessary buildings; and (*h*) promote or assist in evangelistic work, and in all practicable ways aid in the extension and consolidation of the work in their respective territories.

6. The Local Superintendents in the Manitoba and North-West and British Columbia Conferences shall report at frequent intervals to the Corresponding Secretary respecting the progress and needs of the work. The Superintendent in New Ontario shall report directly to the Mission Rooms.

XIV. *Indian and Other Missions.*

409. 1. The Indian Work in the Manitoba and North-West Conference, and the Indian, Japanese and Chinese Work in the British Columbia Conference, shall be entirely under the direction of the General Board of Missions.

2. The General Board shall have exclusive authority—

(1) To regulate the number and boundaries of Districts in the Indian work.

(2) To designate the number and extent of Missions in the Indian, Japanese and Chinese work, and the number and character of the laborers to be employed thereon.

(3) To submit to the Stationing Committee of the Annual Conferences each year a list of proposed stations in the Indian, Japanese and Chinese work—the confirmation of such stations to be with the Annual Conferences according to Discipline.

(4) To nominate Chairmen for the Indian Districts—the final appointment to be with the Annual Conferences according to Discipline.

(5) To recommend to the Annual Conferences concerned the names of suitable persons to be received as probationers for the Indian, Japanese and Chinese work, and for ordination for such work. Provided that, whenever practicable, this shall be done through the usual channels of Quarterly and District Meetings.

(6) To authorize the General Superintendent, when deemed necessary, to issue a license, where it can be legally done, under the seal of the Church, empowering lay workers on isolated stations to solemnize matrimony and administer the ordinance of baptism, such license to be revocable at the pleasure of the Board, and in any case to be surrendered by the person holding it when he ceases to be employed by the Society. Lay workers so licensed shall not thereby become members of any Annual Conference or be entitled to any claim on the Superannuation Fund.

(7) To remove or recall any worker who is found to be unsuitable for an Indian field; and when the worker so removed or recalled is a Minister or Probationer, to negotiate with any Annual Conference for his employment elsewhere.

XV. *Medical Missionaries.*

410. 1. The employment of Medical Missionaries shall rest with the General Board, which shall have authority to institute all necessary inquiries, prescribe a preliminary course of study, and provide for all necessary examinations.

2. Medical Missionaries, duly appointed, shall have equal rank with the other Missionaries in the field, and their salaries shall be computed on the same scale. Where there is a Mission Council they shall be members thereof, having a voice and vote in all its business.

3. They shall be members of the District meeting within the bounds of which they are laboring, and the same questions shall be asked respecting them as are asked concerning other Missionaries, excepting those which strictly pertain to the pastoral office, such as recommending probationers for the ministry, their continuance on trial, ordination, or the like.

4. Medical Missionaries, who are or who shall become Probationers for the ministry, shall pursue the course of study prescribed in the Discipline, and shall be subject to the same regulations as other Probationers. If deemed expedient the General Board may prescribe a four years' course of study for Medical Missionaries who are not probationers for the ministry.

5. No Medical Missionary shall be received as a probationer for the ministry by any Annual Conference, or be ordained for special purposes, except by request of the General Board or the Executive Committee.

6. Each Medical Missionary who is in receipt of a salary

from the Missionary Fund, shall keep an accurate account of all fees received for medical services, and forward a copy of the same through the Mission Council or Annual District Meeting to the General Board, which shall determine how said fees shall be expended. Where hospitals are established the Medical Missionary in charge shall keep a careful account of income from all sources, and of expenditure for maintenance and medical appliances. A copy of this account shall appear in the annual financial statement from the mission.

7. Each Medical Missionary shall prepare and forward to the Mission Rooms, through the Mission Council or Annual District Meeting, a report of his work, whether Hospital, Dispensary or general practice, showing number and character of cases treated, and any other information that may help the Board to understand the extent and value of the medical work as an adjunct to evangelistic effort.

8. It is expected that all Medical Missionaries will keep constantly in view the spiritual needs of their patients, and lose no opportunity of offering Christ, the great Physician, for their acceptance.

9. The years of service of Medical Missionaries after admission to probation for the ministry shall be accepted *pro tanto* in lieu of the years of probation required in the regular work, provided they pass the prescribed Course of Study.

10. In the case of Medical Missionaries who are not Ministers, the General Board shall have authority to grant a superannuated relation, when in its judgment the circum-

stances justify such action, and to pay a superannuation allowance on the same scale as obtains in the Superannuation Fund of The Methodist Church.

11. During the ensuing Quadrennium the General Board shall have power to adopt, if necessary, additional regulations respecting Medical Missionaries and their work, not inconsistent with the foregoing regulations.

XVI. *Foreign Missions.*

1. Object.

411. The object of the Foreign Missions of the Methodist Church is to extend the Kingdom of God by evangelizing the non-Christian nations, and raising up as speedily as possible self-supporting and self-propagating Churches.

2. Mission Council

412. The Missionaries sent by The Methodist Church to any foreign field, when not less than five in number, shall constitute a Mission Council, with powers and duties as hereinafter defined. When there are less than five Missionaries in the field, they may act as a committee to make recommendations, but shall not possess the powers of a Council. The Council shall be subject to such regulations as the General Board of Missions may from time to time adopt, provided the same be not *ultra vires* of the powers conferred upon the Board by the Discipline of the Church. Subject to this general restriction, the Council shall have authority:

(1) To elect a Secretary, who shall keep a true record of

the proceedings and decisions of the Council. It shall also be his duty to forward to the General Board, or its officers, all resolutions, memorials, recommendations, or other official action of the Council and its Executive, and all official communications intended for the consideration of the Board, except such as pertain to the Treasurer's department, as hereinafter defined. The Superintendent of the Mission shall be Chairman of all meetings of the Council when present. In his absence the Council may elect a Chairman, *pro tem.*

(2) The Council, composed of the Missionaries and Superintendent, shall meet together at least once a year for mutual consultation respecting the interests of the work on the various fields comprised in the Mission.

(3) To appoint an Executive Committee to deal with any matters that may arise in the intervals of Council meetings. On the recommendation of the Executive Committee of the Council, the Superintendent shall call a special meeting of the Council.

(4) To designate the particular field of each foreign missionary, and to appoint or reappoint him thereto; the department of work—whether educational, evangelistic or the like—to be designated by the General Board. Where there is no organized District Meeting or Annual Conference, the Mission Council shall station the native preachers and other workers.

(5) To consult, when deemed necessary or advisable, on matters of common interest, with native pastors who may be appointed by the Annual Conference for the purpose, with the view of maintaining the fullest confidence and harmony between the native and foreign workers.

(6) The Council shall meet in joint session, at least once in the year, with the Council of the Woman's Missionary Society, for consultation on matters of common interest, with the view of promoting harmony and co-operation between the agents of the two Societies in the prosecution of their work. If any question arises in regard to which a majority of either Council cannot agree, it may be referred to the Home Boards for final decision, subject to the provision of Par. 403, Sec. 4, of the Discipline. The Executives of the two Councils shall meet in joint session when deemed necessary. A copy of the minutes of all sessions of the Council and Executive, whether joint or otherwise, shall be forwarded promptly to the Mission Rooms.

(7) To regulate all matters relating to the property of the Society in harmony with the directions of the General Board; also to appropriate any funds granted by the Board when not specified in detail, but not so as to change the object of any such grant.

(8) To review the work of each year, revise reports from all parts of the field, prepare and revise estimates for the coming year, and make such recommendations to the General Board from time to time, as they deem expedient.

(9) To plan for the evangelistic work of the foreign Missionaries, assigning to each a definite centre of operation, with freedom, within limits prescribed by the Council, to plan and develop his work, yet not so as to interfere with the disciplinary duties and powers of native Pastors or Chairmen of Districts; provided always that the Council or Missionaries shall not multiply fields or agents involving increased expenditure, without the consent of

the General Board or Executive Committee. The Missionary shall have an advisory relation to all the native workers under the Annual Conference in his field, and shall direct all the laborers raised up under his own care till the fields can be brought under the care of the Annual Conference.

(10) In case of any difference of judgment or conflict of authority arising between a foreign missionary and a native pastor, regarding the arrangement of the work which they cannot adjust, the matter shall be referred to the Superintendent for his decision.

(11) Each foreign missionary shall send in a quarterly report of his work to the Board. He shall also present an annual report to the Council, which report may furnish a basis for the Council's recommendations to the Board.

(12) The Council shall prepare and forward to the General Board, at least annually, a full report of the work and any recommendations touching the same which the Council deems it expedient to make.

(13) All instructions or orders from the General Board to individual missionaries may be communicated either directly or through the Superintendent; but in any case such orders or instructions must also be communicated to the Secretary of the Council, to be laid before the Council for information only, and not for review.

3. Superintendent, Treasurer and Secretary.

413. The Superintendent of any foreign mission shall be the Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary of the

General Board for such mission, and the Executive of the instructions of the Board in all matters not committed to the Mission Council and its officers by the preceding regulations. He shall be a member of the Mission Council, also of the Stationing Committee of the Annual Conference, and of the Board of all Educational institutions under the control of the General Board within the bounds of the mission.

His duties shall be :

(1) To supervise the entire work of the mission ; to confer with and advise the Council respecting the appointment and work of the foreign missionaries, also the Stationing Committee of the Annual Conference respecting the work of the native preachers and evangelists ; to advise with the missionaries and native pastors on their fields, regarding methods of organization and work ; to decide matters in dispute between missionaries and native pastors, respecting their work, and between agents of the General Board and the Woman's Missionary Society, or refer the latter to the Home Boards for adjustment ; to open up, with the concurrence of the Council, new fields of work ; to initiate, through the Council or the Conference, methods for promoting self-support ; and in general so to lead and direct the work of the mission as to build up the Annual Conference and the work under its care.

(2) As Treasurer for the Board, to take charge of all funds sent from the Mission Rooms, rent of mission property, if any, and of income derived by missionaries, outside their regular salaries, for teaching in schools, or the like ; keep the books and make all necessary reports

connected therewith; disburse the money in his possession in accordance with the appropriations authorized by the General Board or Executive Committee, and subject solely to their authority; transmit annually to the Mission Rooms a detailed and audited Statement of the accounts of the mission for the preceding year; also the estimates of the Mission Council for the following year.

(3) As Corresponding Secretary of the Board he shall report fully to the Board concerning his work as Superintendent, and keep the Board informed of all matters of importance connected with the work; lay promptly before the Council all official communications from the Board or Mission Rooms, and discharge such other duties as the Board may from time to time direct.

(4) In case of the death or disability of the Superintendent or his absence from the field, the General Board or Executive Committee shall designate one of the foreign missionaries as Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary, *pro tem.*, who shall discharge the duties specified in Subsections (2) and (3) of the regulations next preceding, except those of superintendency.

The Superintendents of Foreign Missions shall be appointed by the Board of Missions.

4. Mission District Meetings.

414. The constitution and powers of the District Meeting shall be the same as those of the ordinary District, so far as they can be adapted to the condition of things in the foreign field.

5. Mission Conferences.

415. 1. When there are fifteen or more ordained Ministers on the field, and the General Board or the Executive Committee recommends the step, the Missions shall be erected into a Mission Conference, with power to divide into two or more Districts.

2. The constitution of the Mission Conference shall be the same as that of the ordinary Annual Conference, with the following limitations :

(1) The Conference shall not in any way interfere with the administration of the General Board of Missions, nor with the powers and duties of the Mission Council or the Superintendent of the Mission, as elsewhere defined.

(2) It shall elect representatives to the General Conference and the General Board of Missions only when authorized so to do by the General Board, which shall also designate the number of such representatives.

(3) To meet peculiar conditions of the work in Japan the Stationing Committee may appoint a native pastor to the same field for five consecutive years ; but any extension beyond this term shall be only by a three-fourths vote of the Stationing Committee, but in no case shall the term exceed seven years.

(4) When a missionary who has been transferred to a Mission Conference in the foreign field, returns permanently to the Home Work, he shall be received and stationed by the Conference from which he was sent out. Nevertheless, it shall be competent for the General Superintendent to arrange for his transfer into some other Home

Conference when the circumstances, in his opinion, justify such a course.

(5) That it shall be the duty of the native Chairmen of Districts, pastors and Annual Conferences to co-operate in all possible ways with the Missionaries and the Superintendent of the Mission.

(6) The lay members of the Annual and Financial District Meetings shall be elected at the Fourth meeting of the Quarterly Official Board.

(7) A Mission Conference, in order to meet the needs of the work, shall have power to specially ordain and receive into full Connexion candidates without their having passed the regular Course of Study for ministers, provided they meet the following conditions : (*a*) They shall have served successfully as lay evangelists for a term not less than six years ; (*b*) they shall have spent, in addition to the above, at least three years on probation ; (*c*) they shall have passed satisfactory examinations on the special course of study elsewhere provided ; (*d*) the Ministerial Conference shall decide by a two-thirds majority as to the need of the step and as to the suitability of the candidates.

416. Foreign Missionaries shall have *ex officio* all the rights and privileges in Mission Conferences which they have or had in the Home Conference to which they belonged ; and shall be amenable to the Mission Conference for their conduct. With the concurrence of the Mission Council, the Stationing Committee of the Conference may appoint foreign missionaries to its own work.

417. Should charges be preferred against a foreign missionary affecting his Christian character or ministerial

conduct, they shall be sent to the President of the Conference, who shall at once forward a copy to the Superintendent of the Mission; the President shall then appoint two native pastors, and the Superintendent of the Mission two foreign missionaries, who shall be a committee, the Superintendent presiding, to investigate the charges and determine the case. In the event of a tie, the chairman of the committee shall have a casting vote. Should the accused believe that he has been unjustly dealt with, he shall have the right of appeal to the Conference to which he belongs, the decision of which shall be final, except on questions of law.

XVII. *Woman's Missionary Society.*

418. 1. For the more successful prosecution of the missionary work of the Church among women, there shall be an organization known as "The Woman's Missionary Society of The Methodist Church," to be governed and regulated by its constitution, which may be altered or amended by the General Conference, if so required by the necessities of the work.

2. The Society shall work in harmony with the authorities of the Missionary Society of The Methodist Church, and be subject to their approval in the employment and remuneration of missionaries or other agents, the designation of fields of labor, and in general plans and designs of work.

3. The funds of the Society shall be raised by collections in meetings convened in the interests of Woman's Mission-

ary work, by securing memberships and life memberships, and by any other plans of collection arranged by the Society, but always in such manner as not to prejudice the other funds of the Church.

4. All funds raised for the Society shall be reported by the minister in charge to the Annual Conference; and be entered in a column among the benevolent collections in the Annual Minutes.

5. In foreign fields plans for new work by the Woman's Missionary Society or its Council, before being finally decided, shall be laid before the Mission Council of the General Society and receive its approval.

(*a*) Propositions for new developments or modifications of the work of the Woman's Missionary Society, by any member of the General Mission Council, must first have the approval of said Council, and afterwards be sent officially to the Council of the Woman's Missionary Society for its approval or otherwise.

(*b*) The Mission Council of the Woman's Missionary Society shall meet in joint session with the Council of the General Missionary Society at least once in the year, for consultation in regard to matters of common interest, with the view of promoting harmony and co-operation between the agents of both Societies.

XVIII. *Collegiate Missionary Society.*

419. 1. Students of any of our Colleges may organize themselves into Societies in affiliation with the Missionary Society, under the title of Auxiliary Missionary Societies;

and they shall, respectively, be known as "The Students' Auxiliary Missionary Society of .... College."

2. For the purpose of the Society as above, they shall have power to frame a constitution not inconsistent with the constitution of the Missionary Society.

3. Such Societies shall work in harmony with the authorities of the Missionary Society; and if at any time the said Societies should decide to send a missionary or missionaries to a foreign field, it shall be with the concurrence of the General Board of Missions.

4. They shall, year by year, report their income and expenditure to the General Board of Missions.

Section II.

SUPERANNUATION FUND.

Constitution of the Superannuation Fund,

I. *Name.*

420. The name of this fund shall be "The Superannuation Fund of The Methodist Church."

II. *Object.*

421. The object of this fund shall be to assist in the support of Superannuated Ministers, Ministers' Widows, and Children of deceased Ministers, as hereinafter provided.

III. *Membership.*

422. All Ministers and Probationers for the ministry of the Methodist Church in the Toronto, London, Hamilton, Bay of Quinte, Montreal, Manitoba and North-West, British Columbia and Japan Annual Conferences, shall be members of the fund, except—

1. Those who are given a supernumerary relation.
2. Those who are located.
3. Those who have commuted their claims.
4. Those whose claims have expired by limitation.
5. Those who are native ministers in foreign fields.

IV. *Management.*

423. The fund shall be managed by a Board composed of the Treasurers and sixteen other members, eight of whom shall be laymen who are members of the Church.

424. The delegates from the aforesaid Annual Conferences to the General Conference shall meet, under the presidency of a General Superintendent, or of a President of an Annual Conference designated by him, to elect the aforesaid Board of Management, and shall report the same to the General Conference for information. They shall also nominate one or more persons for the offices of clerical and lay treasurer, respectively; and, from among those so nominated, the General Conference shall elect, by ballot, the Treasurers of the Fund. The meeting of the delegates shall be held during the session of the General Conference, and previous to the day appointed for the election of General Conference officers.

425. A General Superintendent shall be *ex officio* Chairman of the Board; but if no General Superintendent be present, the Board shall elect one of its members as chairman. It shall elect its own secretary. In case of the death, resignation or disqualification of any officer or member of the Board during the Quadrennium, the Board is authorized to fill the vacancy.

426. The Board shall meet once a year, and shall have full authority to determine, according to the Constitution, By-laws and Regulations of the Fund, the status, annuity and allowance of all claimants, and the amount to be allowed in commutation of claims, and to make such special appropriations as are permitted by the constitution, and to consider and determine all matters connected with the administration of the fund.

427. An Investment Committee, consisting of the Treasurers and five other members, appointed by the Board, shall, under its general direction, invest all the capital funds. It shall have authority to call special meetings of the Board, and shall, when requested, advise the Treasurers on matters pertaining to the Fund.

428. Each Annual Conference shall elect a Conference Treasurer, who shall keep an account with the Financial Secretaries, and make a full report of the returns from each District to the Conference and to the General Treasurers.

V. *Invested Capital.*

429. The invested capital of this fund shall consist of the funds held and reported by the Board as invested or

awaiting investment, and of such donations, bequests and legacies as may hereafter be received by the Board.

VI. *Current Income.*

430. The sources of current income shall be the following, viz. :

1. Interest on invested capital.
2. Appropriations from the Book and Publishing House.
3. The annual subscriptions of ministers and probationers for the ministry.
4. Contributions from Circuits and Domestic Missions.
5. Payments by or on behalf of ministers who are not in the regular pastorate in lieu of Circuit contributions.

431. The annual subscription of each Minister and probationer in the active service of the Church shall be a percentage of his salary, as reported in the Minutes of the previous year for salary, board and fuel, but in no case shall his subscription be less than $15 per annum; such percentage to be on the following scale :

$501 to $600	3.1	per cent.
601 " 700	3.2	"
701 " 800	3.3	"
801 " 900	3.4	"
901 " 1,000	3.5	"
1,001 " 1,100	3.6	"
1,101 " 1,200	3.7	"
1,201 " 1,300	3.8	"
1,301 " 1,400	3.9	"
1,401 and upwards	4.0	"

The subscriptions shall be paid to the Financial Secretary, one-half at the Financial District Meeting, and the other half at the Annual District Meeting. During pro-

bation the subscriptions shall be paid from year to year, in accordance with the credit of years travelled, and shall not be less than three payments for the entire term of probation.

432. Each Circuit and Domestic Mission shall be required to contribute a sum equal to six per cent. of the amount raised and reported to the Conference the previous year for ministerial support and the following Connexional Funds, viz.: The Missionary (general), Superannuation, Educational, General Conference, Contingent, Union Church Relief and Sunday School Aid Funds. The said contribution may be included in the Circuit estimates for the year by the Quarterly Official Board, and may be raised by special subscription or otherwise. If the Quarterly Official Board shall fail to make the necessary provision in this behalf, the Superintendent of the Circuit or Mission, as it may be, shall have authority to take collections and subscriptions in the public congregation or congregations to meet the amount payable by the circuit according to the above assessment. The exemption of salary on account of horse keep or hire shall in no case exceed $60.

433. The General Treasurers shall notify the Chairman of each District of the amount required from each circuit and domestic mission in his District, which assessment shall be subject to revision by the Financial District Meeting, provided that the District shall be responsible for the total amount charged to it. The Superintendent of a Circuit and his colleagues shall be responsible for the full payment of the same to the Financial Secretary.

434. There shall be contributed annually, on behalf of

each ordained minister in the active service of the Church who is a member of the fund and who is appointed to a position outside the regular pastorate, by the Society, Department, Institution or Conference he serves, or by himself, in lieu of Circuit contribution, a sum equal to the difference between his personal subscription and $75. This law shall apply to the officers of the General Conference, the Missionary Society, the Educational Society and the Superannuation Fund; to the principals, professors, teachers and agents of our educational institutions; to Conference evangelists, and to all ministers appointed by Conference or by permission of Conference to service outside the pastorate.

435. Non-compliance with the provisions of Pars. 431, 432, 433 and 434, by any Circuit, minister or probationer shall be reported specifically by the Chairman of the District to the Annual Conference, and if the Chairman fails to make such report, it shall be the duty of the General Treasurers to proceed against such Chairman, in disciplinary form, for failure to "observe and enforce our Discipline."

436. The Missionary Society shall contribute, on behalf of each ordained foreign missionary who is a member of the fund, in lieu of Circuit contribution, the sum of $70 per annum; and on behalf of each French, Indian or other ordained missionary who is a member of the fund (except home missionaries), the sum of $50 per annum.

VII. *Claimants.*

437. Claimants shall consist of Ministers who are

regularly superannuated by an Annual Conference, Ministers' widows and children of deceased ministers, as in each case is hereinafter provided.

438. The initiative in the superannuation of a Minister, or in his restoration to the active work, may be taken by himself, by his Annual District Meeting, or by his Annual Conference.

439. Each Annual Conference shall have a Committee on Conference Relations, consisting of the ministerial members of the Superannuation Fund Board in the Conference, and seven other ministers appointed by the Conference, to which all cases of superannuation or restoration to the active work shall be referred.

440. No superannuated relation shall be granted by an Annual Conference except on the recommendation of the Committee on Conference Relations. The said Committee in making its recommendation shall not take into consideration anything else than the question, "Is the minister recommended for superannuation, or asking for the same, really worn out or temporarily disabled in the itinerant service?" Provided, however, that in case the Committee report adversely, the Conference may, by the vote of not less than three-fourths of the ministers present, grant a superannuated relation.

441. The said Committee on Conference Relations shall have power to require a medical examination of the minister recommended for or seeking superannuation, by a physician named by itself, who shall make the examination in behalf of the Annual Conference; nevertheless, this shall not apply to ministers of forty years' standing.

442. A minister who is superannuated, or the payment of whose annuity is suspended, or who is restored to the active work, by the regular action of his Annual Conference, shall have no option but to accept the decision of the same.

443. A minister who is superannuated for one year shall, as a matter of course, return to the active work at the end of that term; if, however, a superannuated relation is then recommended by the Annual District Meeting, his case shall go before the Committee on Conference Relations and be dealt with on its merits.

444. A widow, whose husband was permanently superannuated at the time of their marriage, shall have no claim on this fund, unless an annuitant at the time of her marriage, in which case the former annuity shall be revived.

445. A widow fifteen years younger than her husband, and married after he was fifty-five years of age, shall not be paid any annuity, except at the discretion of the Board.

446. The widows of all ministers who were superannuated prior to 1883, after having travelled fifteen years or upwards, shall be entitled to the same protection as was granted to their husbands by the Basis of Union.

447. A superannuated minister, who is suspended by an Annual Conference, shall receive no annuity from the fund for the period of suspension.

VIII. *Computation of Annuities.*

448. The computation of annuities shall be based on the number of years spent in the active service of the Church on circuits or missions, or in the interests of any

department, society or corporation within The Methodist Church, by the appointment of the General or an Annual Conference.

449. The period for computing a minister's annuity shall commence from the time of his being received on probation; nevertheless a year of service rendered under the direction of a Chairman and allowed by a Conference, shall be counted, but not more than three years shall be credited on the term of probation.

450. If a minister has rendered less than twenty-three years' service, and his superannuated relation is broken into two or more terms, the total number of annual payments to which he shall be entitled shall not exceed his years of service.

451. The period for computing the annuity of a minister received from another Church shall commence from the time of his reception into our work.

452. The period for computing the annuities of those ministers who failed to "level up," as *per* the Basis of Union, shall commence with June 1st, 1884.

453. A superannuated minister, whose claim has expired by limitation, or who has commuted his claim and is restored to the active service, shall have a subsequent claim only for services rendered after such restoration. The same rule shall apply to located ministers who are restored to active work.

454. A minister regularly transferred to a Conference of the Eastern Section of The Methodist Church shall retain, in connection with this fund, the standing that he acquired previous to his transfer, and on superannuation

he shall be paid such a sum annually as shall be equal to such fraction of the amount which he would be entitled to receive for total years of service under this constitution, as may be determined by the proportion of years travelled in the Western Section ; and if, when given a superannuated relation, his total years of service would entitle him under this constitution to an annuity during his natural life, that part of his annuity, payable by this fund, shall be payable during his life.

455. A minister of one of the Conferences of the Eastern Section of The Methodist Church, who is regularly transferred to a Conference of the Western Section, in the event of superannuation, shall be paid such a sum annually as shall be equal to such fraction of the amount which he would be entitled to receive for total years of service under this constitution, as may be determined by the proportion of years travelled in the Western Section of the Church ; and if, when given a superannuated relation, his total years of service would entitle him under this constitution to an annuity during his natural life, that part of his annuity, payable by this fund, shall be payable during his life.

IX. *Scale of Annuities.*

456. A superannuated minister shall receive from the fund an annuity according to the following scale, payment to continue as many years as he shall have rendered effective service. Nevertheless, if he shall have rendered twenty-three years of service, the payment shall continue during his natural life ; provided, in every case, his relation as a superannuated minister be continued :

For 4 years' service.....	$18 00	For 18 years' service.....	$109 50
" 5 " "	22 50	" 19 " "	121 50
" 6 " "	27 00	" 20 " "	136 50
" 7 " "	31 50	" 21 " "	153 00
" 8 " "	36 00	" 22 " "	171 00
" 9 " "	40 50	" 23 " "	186 00
" 10 " "	45 00	" 24 " "	196 50
" 11 " "	51 00	" 25 " "	207 00
" 12 " "	57 00	" 26 " "	219 00
" 13 " "	63 00	" 27 " "	232 50
" 14 " "	72 00	" 28 " "	244 50
" 15 " "	81 00	" 29 " "	258 00
" 16 " "	90 00	" 30 years or upwards, $9 for each such year.	
" 17 " "	99 00		

457. All superannuated ministers and widows who were annuitants in September, 1890, shall continue to receive annuities according to the scale of 1886, and for the number of years therein provided.

458. Widows of ministers, being members of The Methodist Church, shall receive two-thirds of the amount their husbands would have received, and for the same term of years.

459. If the claims upon the fund for any year shall exceed the income for the year, the Board may direct the treasurers to deduct from each annuity such a sum as shall be equal to a *pro rata* share of such a deficiency.

460. Each child of a deceased minister, if such child was born after its father was received into full Connexion with the Conference, shall receive an annuity of $20 up to sixteen years of age. If a deceased minister leave no claimant widow, but leaves a child or children unprovided for, even though beyond sixteen years of age, the Board may

make provision for their support beyond the ordinary children's annuity, but such provision shall not exceed a sum equal to two-thirds of the annuity to which their father would have been entitled. The Chairman of the District, if necessary, shall make special arrangements for the administration of such allowances.

X. *Commutation of Annuities.*

461. A minister who, on superannuation, in the judgment of his Conference, is laid aside from the work of the ministry, from causes which do not disqualify him for secular business, may be recommended by such Conference to the Board for the commutation of his annuity.

462. The relation of each superannuated minister of less than twenty-three years' standing, at the close of the third year of his superannuation, shall be brought under review by his Annual Conference. If there is little hope of restoration to the active work of the ministry, and the cause be such as does not disqualify him for secular business, the Conference may recommend the suspension of the payment of his annuity. The Board of Management shall have power to act on such recommendation, and the decision of the Board in such matters shall be final.

463. It shall be the duty of the Board to call the attention of the Annual Conferences to the relation of all claimants of less than twenty-three years' standing, at the close of the third year of their superannuation, and also to all other cases with regard to which a review may be deemed expedient.

464. The minimum allowance in the commutation of an

annuity shall be an amount equal to the sum of the claimant's personal subscriptions to the fund, with four per cent. compound interest on the same, and, in addition, $10 for each year of post-probationary service.

465. The maximum allowance in the commutation of an annuity shall be equal to the aforesaid sum of a claimant's personal subscriptions, with compound interest at four per cent., and, in addition, $20 for each year of post-probationary service ; provided, however, that the total amount paid in commutation of a claim shall in no case be more than $2,000.

466. The Board, in determining the sum of a claimant's personal subscriptions, shall reckon $10 for each year of service prior to the year 1883-4, and $12 from that year to the year 1894-5, and for each subsequent year the sum credited shall be as per Article VI. of this Constitution. If the claimant has received one or more annual payments from the fund, an amount equal to not less than one-half the sum of such payments shall be deducted from the allowance.

467. The Board, in determining the allowance in the commutation of an annuity, shall take into consideration reversionary interests, also the age, health and probable longevity of the beneficiaries, and shall pay the maximum allowance only when the claimant's wife is living, and when there is also a strong probability of both parties reaching their expectancy.

468. The Board shall have authority to commute an annuity only on the recommendation of an Annual Conference ; but in any case recommended for commutation, it

shall be optional with the Board either to commute the claim or not, as it may deem expedient; and it shall be optional with a superannuated minister, who has a standing of twenty-three years or upwards, whether he shall accept commutation or not, but in all other cases the decision of the Board shall be binding on the minister concerned.

469. The commutation of an annuity shall, in all cases, cancel the reversionary interest of a claimant's wife and children.

XI. *Refunds.*

470. A minister who is located, and who has rendered less than twenty-three years' service, thereby ceases to be a member of the fund, and shall have his annual subscriptions refunded with six per cent. simple interest; if he has rendered twenty-three or more years of service his interest in the fund shall be commuted by the Board on the scale hereinbefore provided.

471. In all other cases, when a member of the fund ceases to be a minister or probationer of The Methodist Church, he shall have one-half the amount of his annual subscriptions refunded; nevertheless, if he is a superannuated minister, the sum of the payments he has received shall be deducted from the sum of his annual subscriptions, and the balance only, if any, shall be refunded.

472. In the refunding of subscriptions, the Treasurers shall ascertain whether any loans that may have been granted the applicant by the Educational Society have been repaid. If such loans have not been repaid, no refund

of subscriptions shall be made until a certificate of payment is furnished. The Treasurers shall be authorized to protect the Book and Publishing House in the same manner.

XII. *Regulations.*

473. The Secretary of each Annual Conference, immediately on the rising of the same, and on blank forms provided by the Board, shall furnish the Treasurers of the fund with a certified statement containing:

1. The name and date of birth of each preacher received on trial.

2. The name and date of birth of any minister received from another Church.

3. The name and latest Post Office address of each minister or minister's widow that has died during the year, also of claimant children.

4. The names and addresses of those who have received a superannuated relation.

5. The names of superannuated ministers who are recommended to commute their claims.

6. The names of ministers who are located, made supernumeraries, dropped, suspended or deposed from the ministry.

7. The names of superannuated, supernumerary, located or suspended ministers restored to the active work.

8. The names of ministers left without an appointment at their own request.

9. The name of the Conference Treasurer of this fund.

10. The amounts raised on each charge for ministerial support, and for the funds forming the basis of circuit

apportionment, as per Article VI.; also the amount paid each minister and probationer, from all sources, for "salary, board and fuel."

474. A superannuated minister who changes his place of residence shall notify the Treasurers, and also the President of his Annual Conference, of such change within thirty days thereof.

475. The names of subscribers of $5, or more, annually to the fund, shall be printed in the Minutes of the Annual Conference.

Section III.

SUPERNUMERARY MINISTERS' AND MINISTERS' WIDOWS' FUND.

Constitution.

I. *Name.*

476. This fund, heretofore known as "The Supernumerary Ministers' and Ministers' Widows' Fund of the Conference of Eastern British America," shall hereafter be designated "The Supernumerary Ministers' and Ministers' Widows' Fund of The Methodist Church," embracing the Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and the Bermudas.

[Note.—The words "Supernumerary Fund" shall be a sufficient title or designation for "The Supernumerary Ministers' and Ministers' Widows' Fund of The Methodist Church," and wherever the said words "Supernumerary Fund" are used they shall be understood to mean and shall mean "The Supernumerary Ministers' and Ministers' Widows' Fund of The Methodist Church."

II. *Membership.*

477. All members of the Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland Annual Conferences, complying with paragraph 490 of this Constitution, shall be members of the fund.

III. *Management.*

478. The representatives of the aforesaid Annual Conferences to the General Conference shall, at some time during the session of each General Conference, at a meeting summoned not later than the sixth day of the Session of the General Conference, by a General Superintendent, at which a General Superintendent or a President of one of the Annual Conferences concerned shall preside, to consider the affairs of this fund, elect by ballot one or more persons as General Treasurer or Treasurers of the fund.

479. The Treasurers so elected are to hold office for *four years*, or until their successors are appointed, unless one or both shall die, or resign, or become, in the judgment of the General Committee hereinafter to be provided for, disqualified for the discharge of the duties of the office. In any such case it shall be the duty of the General Committee to elect some other person or persons to fill the vacant place or places until the meeting of the General Conference.

480. It shall be the duty of the Treasurers to collect and disburse from year to year all the moneys constituting "The Current Income," according to the provisions of the Constitution, and in any case in which there are, or shall

hereafter be, arrears of payments due by ministers who are members of the fund, it shall be the duty of the Treasurers to report such cases to the General Committee, which shall thereupon take such steps as may be necessary to collect said arrears, with interest at the rate of six per cent., compounded annually; nevertheless, in the case of any such arrears existing at the date of passage of this amended article of the Constitution, it shall be competent for the General Committee, when the interests of the fund appear to demand it, to compromise with the parties concerned by accepting payment for a less number of years than are due (with interest as above for the number of years accepted), or to cancel the full amount of the arrears and interest. In every such case it shall not be competent for the General Committee to allow, in respect to such years paid for, a greater number of years' claims on the fund than that to which said payments would entitle the parties under the Constitution, as provided in Par. 499; and, further, it is enacted, in the case of any members of the fund who have been in arrears as above, and have for any term of years been on the list of Supernumeraries, or who may now be on said list, or in the case of any widows now on the list of claimants, or who may have been on said list, that they shall not have a claim for payment for any number of years for which during the time they were supernumerary claimants they did not receive allowance on account of the fact that they were then in arrears in their payments to the fund.

481. It shall be the duty of the Treasurers to prepare and present at each of the meetings of the General Com-

mittee a particular account, duly audited, of all the business transacted for the fund during the previous Conference year.

482. *The General Committee* shall consist of eight members, viz.: The two General Treasurers and six other persons, that is, one Minister and one Layman, to be appointed annually from and by each of the Annual Conferences.

483. The General Committee, so constituted, shall meet annually, at the call of the General Treasurers, and *five* of its members shall constitute a *Quorum* for the transaction of business.

484. It shall be the duty of the General Committee, at each of its annual meetings, to examine carefully the reports of the Treasurers, and of the Investment Committee, of all the business transacted for the fund, and to cause a full report of the results of such examination to be prepared and forwarded for presentation to each of the ensuing Annual Conferences interested; also, to prepare quadrennially a report, embodying a summary of all the business of the four years, to be laid before the next quadrennial meeting of the representatives of the three Conferences aforesaid.

485. A special meeting of the General Committee shall be summoned in the event of the death or disability of either of the General Treasurers, by the surviving one; and, in case of emergency, on the call of any four of the members of the General Committee. At such meeting any business may be transacted that an Annual Meeting is competent to do.

486. The Treasurers, together with *three* other persons,

chosen by the General Committee, shall constitute an *Investment Committee*, which, under direction of the General Committee, shall have the management of the capital of the fund.

487. The General Committee, at its annual meeting, shall appoint an Audit Committee of two persons for the ensuing year.

488. Each Conference named in Par. 477 shall appoint annually a *Conference Committee* composed of its members in the General Committee and *six* other persons, one-half of whom shall be Ministers and the other half Laymen. Each Conference Committee shall appoint its own Chairman, and it shall be the duty of said Committee to look after the interests of the fund in the Conference, especially to examine the returns from the several Districts, to ascertain whether due attention has been given on all the Circuits to secure, in the modes prescribed in this Constitution, the necessary income for the fund, and to call the attention of the Conference to any cases of apparent negligence.

489. Each Conference shall appoint a Secretary-Treasurer of the aforesaid Conference Committee, whose duty it shall be to receive all ministerial payments and moneys collected on the Circuits, and generally as representative of the General Treasurers, to transact any business of a financial nature connected with this fund in the Conference, and to account for the same to the General Treasurers; also to present each year to Conference an abstract of the current income and capital as prepared by the General Committee, and to prepare for printing in the

Conference Minutes a full and complete list of all ministerial payments, as well as lists of other subscriptions and donations of two dollars and upwards from the Circuits.

IV. *Current Income.*

490. Every member of the before-named Annual Conferences, not being a Supernumerary, shall be required to pay a subscription of not less than two and a half per cent. of his salary, as reported in the Minutes of the previous year, such salary to include amounts received from all sources of income, as *bona fide* salary, but in no case shall his subscription be less than twelve dollars per annum, paid in advance at the time of the District Meeting; nevertheless, this shall not be held to permit any minister who is a Supernumerary, or has leave of absence from his Conference, or is left without a Circuit at his own request, to pay for such time as he is a Supernumerary, or has leave of absence, or is left without a Circuit at his own request.

491. Probationers shall pay the annual subscription for the period of their probation, either in advance from year to year, or by one equivalent payment at the end of their probation.

492. The Annual Conferences shall be obligated to raise for the fund at the rate of not less than ten cents per member, including persons on probation, the number of members reported to each General Conference to form the basis of calculation for each year of the following Quadrennium. It being estimated, however, that at least the sum of $4,600 must be raised annually by the

churches during the next ensuing Quadrennium, this amount shall be divided between the Conferences as follows: Nova Scotia Conference to raise $2,000; New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island Conference to raise $1,750, and Newfoundland Conference to raise $850. Each Annual Conference shall apportion the amount required on this basis among the Districts, and the Financial District Meeting shall apportion the amount required of the District among the Circuits. Each Superintendent of a Circuit shall be held responsible by his Annual District Meeting for the amount apportioned to his Circuit by the preceding Financial District Meeting.

493. In all matters pertaining to the raising of the Circuit contributions for this fund, laymen shall have equal right with the Ministers to speak and vote thereon.

494. Every Minister shall, at the first quarterly visitation of the classes, after Conference, explain the nature and reasonableness of the claims of the fund upon the justice and liberality of our people. He shall then inquire of each member what sum he or she is willing to subscribe, and shall enter the respective sums in the class-book, and it shall be the duty of the class leader to collect these, and also subscriptions from the members absent at the time of visitation, and to pay the amount to the Superintendent of the Circuit.

495. An *Annual Collection*, in aid of the fund, shall be made in all the churches and other preaching-places in the month of December, and private application shall be made by the minister to friends on each Circuit for subscriptions and donations.

496. The subscriptions of the ministers and probationers, the Circuit contributions, the interest on the capital, and the amount received from year to year from the Missionary Society, shall constitute the current income for each year available for the payment of annual claims.

V. *Capital.*

497. The *Capital* of the fund shall consist of the amount reported by the Treasurers as constituting the present capital and all sums hereafter received as legacies; payments received under Par. 500, and the excess of current income above current claims in any year.

VI. *Claimants.*

498. No application for a Supernumerary relation shall be granted by an Annual Conference, except on recommendation of a Committee on Conference Relations, consisting of seven ministers elected by the Conference in ministerial session, to which such application shall be referred; and this Committee and the Conference, in making their decisions, shall not take into consideration anything else than the question, namely, "Is the applicant physically or mentally unfitted for the itinerant work?" Nevertheless, a minister of forty years' standing, who has been recommended by his District Meeting for a Supernumerary relation, need not come before the Committee on Conference Relations.

499. Any minister on becoming a Supernumerary, except as hereinafter provided, shall have a claim on the

current income as long as he shall remain a Supernumerary in connection with either of the Conferences specified in Par. 477 for an annuity equal to the sum of ten dollars for each annual subscription which he shall have previously paid to the fund.

500. A widow of any minister having been a member of this fund, except as hereinafter provided, shall, so long as she shall remain his widow, have a claim upon the current income for an annuity equal to one-half the claim of her deceased husband; provided, however, that if the wife of any member of the fund shall die, and he shall marry again, he must, in order to entitle his new wife to such an annuity, pay *five dollars* a year additional for each year of his connection with the fund previous to his marriage; otherwise her claim shall be considered as commencing only at the time of her marriage. The widows of Supernumerary ministers, who have never been in Circuit work with their husbands, shall have no claim.

501. Any claim upon the fund based upon not more than *ten years'* subscriptions thereto shall not continue more years than the number of the annual subscriptions which constitute its basis; but the claims of ministers transferred to or from any other Conference of The Methodist Church who shall have paid subscriptions to the Superannuation Fund, or to the Supernumerary Fund, and whose annual subscriptions to the two funds shall, together, be more than *ten*, shall not be subject to the limitations of the foregoing clause. Neither shall this limitation apply to ministers received into full Connexion at or before the Annual Conferences of 1882.

502. Any minister of the Conferences specified in Par. 477, being a member of this fund, who shall be transferred to any other Conference of The Methodist Church, may retain the standing in connection with the fund which he had acquired previous to his transfer.

503. It is provided always that, when in any year the current income shall be insufficient to meet the claims of that year in full, such claims shall be proportionately reduced by an equal percentage from all.

504. Any person who, by withdrawal, location, expulsion, or in any other way, shall cease to be a member of an Annual Conference of The Methodist Church, may be repaid by the General Committee on the recommendation of his Annual Conference, from the capital of the fund, the amount of his annual subscriptions; provided always that it shall be lawful for the General Treasurers to pay to the parties properly authorized to receive them, any amounts due by the party or parties claiming repayment, to the Book Room of the Eastern Section of The Methodist Church or to that of the Western Section, or to any Fund of The Methodist Church; and the receipt of the aforementioned properly authorized parties shall be a sufficient discharge as against the claimant or claimants as aforesaid. The General Committee may, upon the recommendation of the Annual Conference, commute with such Ministers as may be Supernumeraries from causes which do not disqualify them for secular business, by payment of such sums as may be mutually agreed upon, instead of allowing them to become permanent claimants upon the Supernumerary Fund.

VII. *Change in Constitution.*

505. No change shall be made in this Constitution until after notice thereof shall have been given to the General Committee, whose duty it shall be to report all such notices to each of the three Annual Conferences interested; nor then, unless the proposed change or changes shall have been concurred in by two-thirds of the members of the fund present and voting thereon in the said three Conferences, the number of the contents and non-contents being carefully taken and put upon record in the Journal of each of the said Conferences, and certified by the President and the Secretary of each Conference to the next meeting of the General Committee. When the aggregate required number of *two thirds* of all the members voting in the three Conferences shall be found to have been given in favor of the proposed change or changes, it shall be the duty of the General Committee so to report to the representatives of the aforesaid three Annual Conferences to the next ensuing General Conference, in order that the said proposed and requested change or changes may be confirmed by the General Conference.

Section IV.

GENERAL CONFERENCE FUND.

Constitution.

I. *Name.*

506. The name of this fund shall be "The General Conference Fund of The Methodist Church."

II. *Object.*

507. The object of this fund shall be to provide for:

1. Salary, office and travelling expenses of the General Superintendent.

2. Expenses of Standing Committees and Boards of General Conference not otherwise provided for.

3. Expenses of Fraternal Delegates appointed by General Conference.

4. Travelling expenses of Delegates to General Conference.

5. Other necessary expenses incident to the meeting of General Conference.

6. Payment of General Conference indebtedness.

III. *Income.*

508. The General Conference Fund shall be raised by an apportionment of an amount equal to one per cent. on assessable funds to the several Circuits and Missions of

the several Annual Conferences, upon the same basis and in the same manner as now adopted on behalf of the Superannuation Fund of the Western Conferences; and at the May District Meeting it shall be the duty of the Financial Secretary to collect the amount from each Circuit and Mission, and remit the same to the Treasurer of this Fund in the usual way.

IV. *Management.*

509. The management of this fund shall be vested in a Board consisting of five persons, three Laymen and two Ministers; one of whom shall be the Treasurer, to be elected quadrennially by the General Conference.

V. *Audit.*

510. The Board shall provide for a careful audit, by competent persons, of the accounts of the fund; and shall publish the certificate of said auditors in connection with annual and other statements.

VI. *Vacancies.*

511. The Board of Management shall fill any vacancy that may occur in the Board during the Quadrennium.

Section V.

CHURCH AND PARSONAGE AID FUND.

Constitution.

I. *Name.*

512. The fund shall be known as "The Church and Parsonage Aid Fund of The Methodist Church;" nevertheless, the Nova Scotia Conference is allowed to manage its own Church and Parsonage Aid Fund.

II. *Object.*

513. The object of the fund shall be to aid in the erection of Churches and Parsonages, on sites held in trust by our Model Deed, on the Stations, Circuits or Missions of The Methodist Church, and the reduction of debts upon the same, by means of loans at low rates of interest, on such conditions as will secure the earliest possible extinction of all liabilities upon the property aided.

III. *Management.*

514. The management of the fund shall be vested in a Board of seven Directors, a majority of whom shall be laymen, to be elected quadrennially by the General Conference. The Board shall have authority:

1. To make loans to Trustee Boards of Churches or

Parsonages, in harmony with the objects set forth in the Constitution, and the general regulations hereinafter mentioned.

2. To receive moneys on deposit at low rates of interest for the purposes of the fund.

3. To institute proceedings, when necessary; to foreclose mortgages and recover loans or interest when due.

4. To sell, assign, or otherwise dispose of mortgages and securities.

5. To employ such assistance as it may deem necessary for the correct keeping of the accounts and the prompt and accurate transaction of the business connected with the fund.

6. To fill any vacancy that may occur in the Board or among its officers during the Quadrennium.

7. And generally to take such steps as may be necessary for carrying out the provisions of the Constitution and the general objects of the fund.

IV. *Capital.*

515. The capital of the fund shall consist of:

1. Moneys or securities now belonging to the Church and Parsonage Aid Fund for the North-West.

2. Moneys or securities now belonging to any Church or Parsonage Aid Fund in any of the Annual Conferences, subject to the consent of said Conferences.

3. Legacies or donations that have been or shall hereafter be made for the objects contemplated by the fund.

4. Moneys received on deposit.

V. *Application of Revenue.*

516. Revenues arising from interest on loans and other sources shall be applied :

1. To the payment of interest on deposits.
2. To the payment of necessary expenses of management.
3. The balance, if any, shall be carried to a Sinking Fund for the repayment of deposits.

NOTE.—Interest from loans of the Aylesworth legacy goes to the Missionary Fund, according to the terms of the bequest.

VI. *Reports.*

517. The Directors shall publish an Annual Statement for the information of the Conferences and the Connexion generally, and they shall present a Quadrennial Report to the General Conference, covering the business of the four preceding years, and showing the condition of the fund at the close of the last financial year.

VII. *Audit.*

518. The Board shall provide for a careful audit, by competent persons, of the accounts of the fund; and shall publish the certificate of said auditors in connection with the Annual Statements.

VIII. *Regulations.*

519. The following regulations shall be observed in regard to loans :

1. No officer or director connected with the fund shall be a borrower from the fund in any circumstances.

2. The fund shall be used for loan purposes only, and no free grants shall be made in any circumstances.

3. No loan shall exceed forty per cent. of the estimated actual cash value of the property.

4. Loans shall be made on security of first mortgage on Connexional property held under our Model Deed, with assignment of Insurance Policy for amount equal to the loan, and the personal obligation of the Trustees as collateral. Where circumstances render it necessary the Directors may accept the personal obligation of the Trustees in lieu of a mortgage, in which case the Trustees shall give a bond for a mortgage as soon as a deed is secured.

5. All applications for loans in the North West must be endorsed by a Superintendent of Missions, in addition to the Quarterly Board, the Superintendent of the Circuit and the Chairman of the District; but in territories where there is no Superintendent of Missions, applications for loans must be endorsed by the Quarterly Board, the Superintendent of the Circuit and the Chairman of the District.

6. In order to secure greater expedition and efficiency in the administration and helpfulness of this fund, the Corresponding Secretary of Missions shall, under circumstances of urgency, be empowered to make advances in order to acquire sites for Churches and Parsonages—such advances to be secured in the ordinary way, and also to authorize loans from the fund to aid in the erection of Churches and Parsonages where in his judgment it may be proper and advisable.

7. It shall be a distinct condition of each loan that the property is not otherwise encumbered, and that no other incumbrance will be put upon it without the consent of the Directors, in writing, first obtained.

8. Loans may be made repayable, if judged expedient, by annual or semi-annual instalments, covering both principal and interest.

9. Interest on loans shall not exceed six per cent. per annum, and shall be payable half-yearly.

10. The Directors shall not be at liberty to relinquish or modify the claims of the fund for either principal or interest of loans.

11. Persons who may bequeath or donate to the fund the sum of $1,000 or upward shall be at liberty to fix the rate of interest at which such sum shall be loaned (provided the rate be not higher than that fixed by the regulations concerning loans); and shall also be at liberty to specify such other conditions as may seem to them desirable, provided they do not contravene the purpose for which the fund is established. When any such donation is accepted by the Directors, it shall be carried to a distinct and separate account, which shall bear such name as the donor may desire, and shall so appear in the annual statements of the fund.

12. The Treasurer of the Superannuation Fund shall be Treasurer of this fund.

Section VI.

THE UNION CHURCH RELIEF FUND.

Constitution.

I. *Name.*

520. The fund shall be known as "The Union Church Relief Fund."

II. *Object.*

521. The object of the fund is to relieve only such Churches as have become embarrassed through the Union.

The Churches to receive aid from this fund shall be classified as follows:

1. Churches that have lost their constituency and have no prospect of regaining it, and in cases where the property has been sold or is to be sold, the Trustees are still embarrassed with the debt thereon, with no assets, or with insufficient assets to meet their liabilities.

2. Churches that are too weak to meet their liabilities, and therefore require assistance for a time in the payment of the interest thereon.

III. *Income.*

522. The income of the fund shall be obtained from collections and subscriptions which shall be taken in all the congregations of our Church, in the month of October in each year, for the next four years.

IV. *Management.*

523. The fund shall be managed by a Committee appointed by the General Conference, whose duty it shall be to investigate all applications for aid, and decide upon them, and disburse the funds at its disposal according to the provisions of Par. 521.

Section VII.

THE CONTINGENT FUND.

Constitution.

I. *Name.*

524. Each Annual Conference shall have a Contingent Fund, to be called "The Contingent Fund of The Methodist Church."

II. *Object.*

525. The object of this fund shall be:

1. To relieve cases of special affliction and to defray extraordinary expenses incurred in the services of the Church.

2. The surplus, if any, shall be used for such objects as each Conference may define.

III. *Sources of Income.*

526. The sources of income shall be:

1. Collections to be taken up in all the congregations of our Church.

2. The public collections taken up at each Annual Conference.

IV. *Committee.*

527. Each Annual District Meeting shall elect by ballot one Minister and one Layman, who shall constitute the Contingent Fund Committee for the Conference. It shall be the duty of this Committee to consider all claims properly presented to it, and appropriate all the funds placed at its disposal to their proper objects, as directed by the Conference.

528. Each Annual Conference shall provide such regulations in reference to this fund, in accordance with the foregoing provisions as it may deem necessary.

Section VIII.

THE CHILDREN'S FUND.

529. Each Annual Conference may have a Children's Fund under its own control and management, subject to the following conditions and restrictions:

1. The revenue of any such fund shall be raised by such form of assessment as each Annual Conference may, in its judgment, consider best.

2. The Children's Fund Committee of the Annual Conference shall have the power to exempt any Circuit or Mission from the assessment for this fund upon the recommendation of the Annual Conference.

3. The amount payable to each child until eighteen years of age shall be not more than twenty-five dollars per annum; and if in any case the fund shall not be sufficient to pay

the full amount, it shall be divided *pro rata* according to the amount at the disposal of the Conference.

4. The claims of children whose fathers are employed on the French or Indian Missions shall be paid by the Missionary Society; provided that no Missionary shall receive any allowance from this fund who receives $750 or more from all other sources. And the same regulations shall apply to all Ministers.

5. No such claims shall be paid out of the Mission Funds in any Conference where the Children's Fund is abolished or discontinued.

6. The claimants on this fund shall be: (*a*) The children of Superannuated Ministers, such as were born whilst their fathers were in the active work; (*b*) The children of such Ministers in the active work as receive less than $750 per annum from all other sources.

7. The Children's Fund of the Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland Conferences may be continued on the same basis and under the same regulations as have previously existed in those Conferences, or according to such rules and regulations as they may deem best.

Section IX.

SUSTENTATION FUND.

530. Each of the Annual Conferences may have a Sustentation Fund. The government of such fund, and also the full control and management of its income, shall be left entirely with the several Annual Conferences.

531. The object of this fund shall be to secure salaries of not less than $750 for ordained married Ministers; $400 for ordained unmarried Ministers, and $350 for Probationers.

Part VI.

THE RITUAL.

THE RITUAL.

I.

ORDER OF BAPTISM.

532. 1. The Ministration of Baptism to Infants.

The Minister coming to the font, which is to be filled with pure water, shall use the following, or some other exhortation suitable to this sacred office.

Dearly Beloved: Forasmuch as all men are conceived and born in sin, and that our Saviour Christ saith, "Except a man be born of water, and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God;" I beseech you to call upon God the Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ, that having, of His bounteous mercy, redeemed *this child* by the blood of His Son, He will grant that *he*, being baptized with water, may also be baptized with the Holy Ghost, be received into Christ's Holy Church, and become *a lively member* of the same.

Then shall the Minister say,—Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who of Thy great mercy didst save Noah and his family in the ark from perishing by water; and also didst safely lead the children of Israel, Thy people, through the Red Sea, figuring thereby Thy

Holy Baptism; and hast set apart water for this Holy Sacrament; and hast condescended to enter into gracious covenant with man, wherein Thou hast included children as partakers of its benefits, declaring that "of such is the Kingdom of heaven;" we beseech Thee for Thine infinite mercies that Thou wilt look upon *this child;* wash *him*, and sanctify *him* with the Holy Ghost; that *he*, being saved by Thy grace, may be received into the ark of Christ's Church, and being steadfast in faith, joyful through hope, and rooted in love, may so pass the waves of this troublesome world, that finally *he* may come to the land of everlasting life, there to reign with Thee, world without end, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

O merciful God, grant that the old Adam in *this child* may be so buried that the new man may be raised up in *him*. AMEN.

Grant that all carnal affections may die in *him*, and that all things belonging to the Spirit may live and grow in *him*. AMEN.

Grant that *he* may have power and strength to have victory, and to triumph against the devil, the world, and the flesh. AMEN.

Grant that whoever is dedicated to Thee by our office and ministry, may also be endued with heavenly virtues, and everlastingly rewarded through Thy mercy, O blessed Lord God, who dost live and govern all things, world without end. AMEN.

Almighty, ever-living God, whose most dearly beloved Son, Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of our sins, did shed out of His most precious side both water and blood, and

gave commandment to His disciples that they should go and teach all nations, and baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; regard, we beseech Thee, our supplications; and grant that *this child*, now to be baptized, may receive the fulness of Thy grace, and be found at last in the number of Thy faithful and elect children, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Then shall the people stand up, and the Minister shall read one or more of the following portions of Scripture:

Hear the word of the Lord written in the Book of Genesis (chap. xvii. 7):

And I will establish my covenant between Me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generation for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.

The Apostle Peter declares (Acts ii. 39): The promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off.

The Apostle Paul likewise saith in the Epistle to the Galatians (chap. iii. 13, 14, 29): Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ. And if ye be Christ's then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

The Lord hath by His servant Ezekiel (chap. xxxvi. 25) said: Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.

Hear also the words of the Gospel written by St. Mark, in the tenth chapter, beginning at the thirteenth verse:

They brought young children to Him, that He should touch them: and His disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And He took them up in His arms, put His hands upon them, and blessed them.

Then may the Minister say,

DEARLY BELOVED: Forasmuch as this child is now presented by you for Christian baptism, you must remember that it is your part and duty to see that *he* be taught, as soon as *he* shall be able to learn, the nature and end of this holy sacrament, and all those truths of the Holy Scriptures which reveal our duty and God's will concerning us. Bring *him* up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, so that *he* may lead a virtuous and holy life, and, being sheltered from the dangers and temptations of the world, and kept safe from ungodly teaching and example, may be led to trust in Christ *his* Saviour, and abide through life a faithful member of His holy Church.

Then shall the Minister take the child in his arms, and say to the parents or friends of the child:

NAME THIS CHILD.

And then, naming it after them, he shall baptize the child, saying:

N, I baptize thee in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. AMEN.

We receive this child into the congregation of Christ's flock, that *he* may be instructed and trained in the doctrines, privileges, and duties of the Christian religion, and trust that *he* will be Christ's faithful soldier and servant unto *his* life's end.

The Minister may close with extempore prayer.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. AMEN.

533. 2. THE MINISTRATION OF BAPTISM TO SUCH AS ARE OF RIPER YEARS.

The Minister shall say to the Congregation:

DEARLY BELOVED: Forasmuch as our Lord Jesus Christ gave commandment to His Church to make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; and, forasmuch as *this person* here present, not having been baptized in *his* infancy, seeks now in the presence of this congregation to be admitted into Christ's Church, through the ordinance which He hath appointed for that end; let us, being gathered together in the name of Christ, and in obedience to His command, hear, for our instruction and encouragement, the teaching of His holy Word concerning this sacrament.

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded

you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. AMEN. (*Matt.* xxviii. 18-20.)

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. (*Acts* ii. 38.)

Ananias....said....Brother Saul....why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord. (*Acts* xxii. 12-16.)

Then the Minister shall speak to the person to be baptized on this wise:

Well beloved, *thou hast* been instructed, according to Christ's commandment, in the principles of His doctrine, and by the coming hither desiring to receive His holy baptism *dost* solemnly profess, before God and this congregation, *thy* belief in the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost, into whose name *thou art* about to be baptized, and *dost* confess with *thy* mouth the Lord Jesus. *Thou hast* heard the command of God by the mouth of His Apostle, Repent, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ; and the words spoken to Saul of Tarsus, Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord. *Thou art* also reminded that all such as are baptized into Jesus Christ are joined unto Him in one Spirit. *Thou* must therefore, for *thy* part, declare *thy* faith in Christ, and must promise in the presence of this congregation that *thou wilt*, by the grace of God, renounce the devil and all his works, and wilt steadfastly believe God's holy promises, and obediently keep His commandments.

Then shall the Minister demand of each of the persons to be baptized, severally:

Ques. Dost thou renounce the devil and all his works, the vain pomp and glory of the world, with all covetous desires of the same, and the carnal desires of the flesh, so that thou wilt not follow nor be led by them?

Ans. I renounce them all.

Ques. Dost thou believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth? and in Jesus Christ His only begotten Son our Lord? and that He was conceived of the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary? that He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried? that He rose again the third day? that He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, and from thence He shall come again, at the end of the world, to judge the quick and the dead? And dost thou believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the remission of sins; the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

Ans. All this I steadfastly believe.

Ques. Wilt thou be baptized in this faith?

Ans. This is my desire.

Ques. Wilt thou then obediently keep God's holy will and commandments, and walk in the same all the days of thy life?

Ans. I will endeavor so to do, God being my helper.

Then shall the Minister ask the name of the person to be baptized, and repeating the same shall baptize him, saying:

N, I baptize thee in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. AMEN.

After which he shall say:

Grant, O merciful Father, that *this person* whom we now receive into Thy Church by baptism, may never hereafter be ashamed to confess the Faith of Christ crucified, and manfully fight under His banner against sin, the world, and the devil; and that *he* may continue Christ's faithful soldier and servant unto *his* life's end. AMEN.

After which the Minister shall say:

Almighty and everlasting God, our heavenly Father, we give Thee humble thanks for that Thou hast vouchsafed to call us to the knowledge of Thy grace and faith in Thee. Give Thy Holy Spirit to *this person*, that *he* may be made *an heir* of everlasting salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. AMEN.

Grant that all carnal affections may die in *him*, and that all things belonging to the Spirit may live and grow in *him*. AMEN.

Grant that *he* may have power and strength to have victory, and to triumph against the devil, the world, and the flesh. AMEN.

Grant that *he*, being dedicated to Thee by our office and ministry, may also be endued with heavenly virtues, and everlastingly rewarded, through Thy mercy, O blessed Lord God, who dost live and govern all things, world without end. AMEN.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us

our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. AMEN.

Then the Minister, speaking to the newly-baptized, shall say:

DEAR BROTHER: *Thou hast* now been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus; I exhort *thee* to bear in mind that it is *thy* part and duty to walk answerably to *thy* high and holy calling, as becometh the *child* of light, blameless and harmless, without rebuke in the midst of an ungodly world; remembering always that baptism representeth unto us our profession; which is to follow the example of our Saviour Christ, and to be made like unto Him, that as He died and rose again for us, so should we that are baptized die to sin and rise again unto righteousness; continually mortifying all our evil and corrupt affections, and daily proceeding in all virtue and godliness of living.

The Minister may conclude the Service with exhortation and extempore prayer.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost be with you all. AMEN.

II.

RECEPTION OF MEMBERS.

534. Form of Receiving Persons into the Church after Probation.

Upon the day appointed, all that are to be received shall be called forward, and the Minister, addressing the Congregation, shall say:

Dearly Beloved Brethren: The Scriptures teach us that the Church is the household of God, the body of which Christ is the Head, and that it is the design of the Gospel to bring together, in one, all who are in Christ. The fellowship of the Church is the communion which its members enjoy one with another. The ends of this fellowship are the maintenance of sound doctrine, and the ordinance of Christian worship, and the exercise of that power of godly admonition and discipline which Christ has committed to His Church for the promotion of holiness.

It is the duty of all men to unite in this fellowship, for it is only those that be "planted in the house of the Lord, that shall flourish in the courts of our God." Their more particular *duties* are to promote peace and unity; to bear one another's burdens; to prevent each other's stumbling; to seek the intimacy of friendly society among themselves; to continue steadfast in the faith and worship of the Gospel; and to pray and sympathize with each other. Among their *privileges* are peculiar incitements to holiness from the hearing of God's Word, and sharing in Christ's ordinances; the being placed under the watchful care of pastors, and the

enjoyment of the blessings which are promised to those only who are of the household of faith. Into this holy fellowship the persons before you, who have already received the sacrament of baptism, and having been for three months on probation come seeking admission. We now propose, in the fear of God, to question them as to their faith and purposes, that you may know that they are proper persons to be admitted into the Church.

Then the Minister may address the applicants in the following or similar language:

DEARLY BELOVED: You come hither seeking the great privilege of union with the Church our Saviour has purchased with His own blood. We rejoice in the grace of God vouchsafed unto you in that He has called you to be His *followers*, and thus far you have run well. You have heard how blessed are the privileges and how solemn are the duties of membership in Christ's Church; and before you are fully admitted thereto, it is proper that you do here publicly renew your vows, confess your faith, and declare your purposes, by answering the following questions:

Ques. Do you here, in the presence of God and of this congregation, renew the solemn consecration of yourself to God, and take upon you the sacred obligation involved and set forth in the holy ordinance of baptism, and do you purpose that in heart and life, in death and for ever, you will be a true servant of God and of Christ?

Ans. I do. Such is my purpose, by God's help.

Ques. Do you believe in our Lord Jesus Christ, as the only, and all-sufficient, propitiation for the sins of mankind,

and do you look to Him for the remission of sin and eternal life?

Ans. Such are my faith and hope.

Ques. Do you believe in the inspiration and divine authority of the Holy Scriptures, and accept the same as a sufficient rule of faith and practice?

Ans. I do.

Ques. Will you cheerfully be governed by the rules of the Methodist Church, hold sacred the ordinances of God, and endeavor, as much as in you lies, to promote the welfare of your brethren, and the advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom?

Ans. I will.

Ques. Will you contribute of your earthly substance, according to your ability, to the support of the Gospel and the various benevolent enterprises of the Church?

Ans. I will.

Then the Minister, addressing the Church, shall say:

BRETHREN: You have heard the responses given to our inquiries. Have any of you any reason to allege why these persons should not be received into full membership in the Church?

No objection being alleged, the Minister shall say to the Candidates.

We welcome you to the communion of the Church of God; and, in testimony of our Christian affection and the cordiality with which we receive you, I hereby extend to you the right hand of fellowship; and may God grant that you may be faithful and useful members of the Church

militant until you are called to the fellowship of the Church triumphant, which is "without fault before the throne of God."

Then shall the Minister offer extempore prayer.

III.

THE LORD'S SUPPER.

535. Order for the Administration of the Lord's Supper.

While the collection for the poor is being taken up, the Minister shall say one or more of these sentences:

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. (*Matt.* v. 16.)

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal. (*Matt.* vi. 19, 20.)

Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets. (*Matt.* vii. 12.)

Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven. (*Matt.* vii. 21.)

Zaccheus stood, and said unto the Lord: Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken

anything from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold. (*Luke* xix. 8.)

He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver. (*2 Cor.* ix. 6, 7.)

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith. (*Gal.* vi. 10.)

Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. (*1 Tim.* vi. 6, 7.)

Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life. (*1 Tim.* vi. 17-19).

God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have showed toward His name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister (*Heb.* vi. 10.)

To do good and to communicate forget not; for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. (*Heb.* xiii. 16.)

Whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? (*1 John* iii. 17.)

He that hath pity on the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will He pay him again. (*Prov.* xix. 17.)

Blessed is he that considereth the poor; the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. (*Psalm* xli. 1.)

While these sentences are being read, some person or persons, appointed for that purpose, shall receive the alms for the poor; and then bring them to the Minister, who shall place them upon the table.

After which the Minister shall say:

Ye that do truly and earnestly repent of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in His holy ways; draw near with faith, and take this holy sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to Almighty God, meekly kneeling upon your knees.

Then shall this general confession be made by the Minister in the name of all those that are minded to receive the Holy Communion, both he and all the people devoutly kneeling and saying:

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men; we acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word and deed, against Thy Divine Majesty, provoking most justly Thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please Thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of Thy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Then shall the Minister say:

O Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy great mercy hast promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto Thee; have mercy upon us; pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

The Collect.

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love Thee, and worthily magnify Thy holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Then shall the Minister say:

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto Thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God.

Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Thy glorious name, evermore praising Thee and saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts, heaven and earth are full of Thy glory Glory be to Thee, O Lord most high. AMEN.

We do not presume to come to this Thy table, O merciful God, trusting in our own righteousness, but in Thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under Thy table. But Thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of Thy dear

Son Jesus Christ, and to drink His blood, that our sinful souls and bodies may be made clean by His death, and washed through His most precious blood, that we may evermore dwell in Him, and He in us. AMEN.

Then the Minister shall offer the Prayer of Consecration as followeth:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of Thy tender mercy didst give Thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by His oblation of Himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in His holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that His precious death, until His coming again: hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech Thee, and grant that we, receiving these Thy creatures of bread and wine, according to Thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of His death and passion, may be partakers of His most blessed body and blood; who, in the same night that He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He brake it and gave it to His disciples, saying, Take, eat; this is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me. Likewise after supper He took the cup; and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of this; for this is My blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins; this do ye, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of Me. AMEN.

Then shall the Minister or Ministers receive the Communion in both kinds: and deliver the same to the people also, in order, into their uncovered hands. And when he delivereth the bread he shall say:

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for *thee*, preserve *thy soul* and *body* unto everlasting life. Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for *thee*, and feed on Him in *thy heart* by faith, with thanksgiving.

And the Minister that delivereth the cup shall say:

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for *thee*, preserve *thy soul* and *body* unto everlasting life. Drink of this in remembrance that Christ's blood was shed for *thee*, and be thankful.

If the consecrated bread or wine be all spent before all have communed, the Minister may consecrate more by repeating the Prayer of Consecration.

When all have communed, the Minister shall return to the Lord's Table, and place upon it what remaineth of the consecrated elements, covering the same with a fair linen cloth.

Then may the Minister say the Lord's Prayer: the people repeating after him every petition.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. AMEN.

After which may be said as followeth:

O Lord, our heavenly Father, we Thy humble servants desire Thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching Thee to grant that, by the merits and death of Thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in His blood, we and Thy whole Church may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of His passion. And here we offer and present unto Thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and lively sacrifice unto Thee; humbly beseeching Thee that all we who are partakers of this holy communion may be filled with Thy grace and heavenly benediction. And although we be unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto Thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech Thee to accept this our bounden duty and service; not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto Thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. AMEN.

Then may be said:

Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good-will towards men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For Thou only art holy, Thou only art the Lord; Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. AMEN.

Then the Minister, if he see it expedient, may offer an extempore prayer; and afterwards shall let the people depart with this blessing:

May the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. AMEN.

N.B.—If the Minister be straitened for time, he may omit any part of the Service, except the Prayer of Consecration.

IV.

MATRIMONY.

536. FORM OF THE SOLEMNIZATION OF MATRIMONY.

First, the banns of all that are to be married must be published in the Congregation according to law, unless in cases where license has been obtained.

At the time appointed for the solemnization of matrimony, the persons to be married standing together, the man at the right hand of the woman, the Minister shall say:

DEARLY BELOVED: We are gathered together here, in the sight of God, and in the presence of these witnesses, to join together this man and this woman in holy matrimony, which

is an honorable estate, instituted of God in the time of man's innocency, signifying unto us the mystical union that is betwixt Christ and His Church; which holy estate Christ adorned and beautified with His presence, and first miracle that He wrought in Cana of Galilee, and is commended of St. Paul to be honorable among all men; and therefore is not by any to be enterprised or taken in hand unadvisedly, but reverently, discreetly, advisedly, and in the fear of God.

Into which holy estate these two persons present come now to be joined. Therefore, if any one can show any just cause why they may not lawfully be joined together, let him now speak, or else hereafter forever hold his peace.

And also speaking unto the persons that are to be married, he shall say:

I require and charge you both (as you will answer at the dreadful day of judgment, when the secrets of all hearts shall be disclosed), that if either of you know any impediment why you may not be lawfully joined together in matrimony, you do now confess it. For be ye well assured, that so many as are coupled together otherwise than as God's Word doth allow, are not joined together by God, neither is their matrimony lawful.

If no impediment be alleged, then shall the Minister say unto the man:

M, wilt thou have this woman to be thy wedded wife, to live together after God's ordinance, in the holy estate of matrimony? Wilt thou love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health, and forsaking all other, keep thee only unto her, so long as ye both shall live?

The man shall answer:

I WILL.

Then shall the Minister say unto the woman:

N, wilt thou have this man to be thy wedded husband, to live together after God's ordinance, in the holy estate of matrimony? Wilt thou love him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health, and forsaking all other, keep thee only unto him, so long as ye both shall live?

The woman shall answer.

I WILL.

Then the Minister shall cause the man, with his right hand, to take the woman by the right hand, and to say after him as followeth:

I, *M*, take thee, *N*, to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I plight thee my faith.

Then shall they loose their hands, and the woman, with her right hand, taking the man by his right hand, shall likewise say after the Minister:

I, *N*, take thee, *M*, to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I plight thee my faith.

When the parties desire to be married with a ring, the following form may be used:—The man, placing the ring upon the fourth finger of the woman's left hand, shall say after the Minister:

With this ring, a token and pledge of the vow and covenant now made between me and thee, I do thee wed, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

Then shall the Minister say:

Let us pray.

O Eternal God, Creator and Preserver of all mankind, Giver of all spiritual grace, the Author of everlasting life, send Thy blessing upon these Thy servants, this man and this woman, whom we bless in Thy name; that, as Isaac and Rebecca lived faithfully together, so these persons may surely perform and keep the vow and covenant betwixt them made, and may ever remain in perfect love and peace together, and live according to Thy laws, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Then shall the Minister say:

O God of Abraham, God of Isaac, God of Jacob, bless this man and this woman, and sow the seed of eternal life in their hearts, that whatsoever in Thy holy Word they shall profitably learn, they may indeed fulfil the same. Look, O Lord, mercifully on them from heaven, and bless them. And as Thou didst send Thy blessings upon Abraham and Sarah, to their great comfort, so vouchsafe to send Thy blessings upon this man and this woman, that they, obeying Thy will, and always being in safety under Thy protection, may abide in Thy love until their lives' end, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Then shall the Minister join their right hands together, and say:

Those whom God hath joined together let no man put asunder.

Forasmuch as *M* and *N* have consented together in holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God and this

company, and thereto have pledged their faith, either to other, and have declared the same by joining of hands, and by the giving and receiving of a ring, I pronounce that they are husband and wife together,—In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. AMEN.

And the Minister shall add this blessing:

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Ghost, bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully with His favor look upon you, and so fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace, that ye may so live together in this life that in the world to come ye may have life everlasting. AMEN.

Then shall the Minister say:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. AMEN. Solute. Congrel. Introduc

V.

BURIAL OF THE DEAD.

537. FORM FOR THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD.

[N.B.—The following or some other solemn service shall be used.]

The Minister meeting the corpse, and going before it, shall say:

I am the resurrection, and the life, saith the Lord; he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he

live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die. (*John* xi. 25, 26.)

I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another. (*Job* xix. 25, 26, 27.)

We brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord. (1 *Tim.* vi. 7; *Job* i. 21.)

At the grave, when the corpse is laid in the earth, the Minister shall say:

Man, that is born of a woman, hath but a short time to live, and is full of misery. He cometh up, and is cut down as a flower; he fleeth as it were a shadow, and never continueth in one stay.

In the midst of life we are in death; of whom may we seek for succor, but of Thee, O Lord, who for our sins art justly displeased?

Yet, O Lord God most holy, O Lord most mighty, O holy and most merciful Saviour, deliver us not into the bitter pains of eternal death.

Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts; shut not Thy merciful ears to our prayers, but spare us, Lord most holy, O God most mighty, O holy and merciful Saviour, Thou most worthy Judge eternal, and suffer us not at our last hour for any pains of death to fall from Thee.

Then while the earth shall be cast upon the body by some standing by, the Minister shall say:

Forasmuch as it has pleased Almighty God in His wise providence to take out of the world the soul of the departed, we therefore commit *his* body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust; looking for the general resurrection in the last day, and the life of the world to come, through our Lord Jesus Christ; at whose second coming in glorious majesty to judge the world, the earth and the sea shall give up their dead; and the corruptible body of those who sleep in Him shall be changed, and made like unto His own glorious body; according to the mighty working whereby He is able to subdue all things unto Himself.

Then shall be said:

I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them.

Then shall the Minister say:

Lord have mercy upon us,
Christ have mercy upon us,
Lord have mercy upon us.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. AMEN.

The Collect.

O merciful God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the resurrection and the life; in whom whosoever believeth shall live, though he die, and whosoever liveth and believeth in Him shall not die eternally: we meekly beseech Thee, O Father, to raise us from the death of sin unto the life of righteousness; that when we shall depart this life we may rest in Him; and, at the general resurrection at the last day, we may be found acceptable in Thy sight, and receive that blessing which Thy well-beloved Son shall then pronounce to all that love and fear Thee, saying, Come, ye blessed children of my Father, receive the kingdom prepared for you from the beginning of the world. Grant this, we beseech Thee, O merciful Father, through Jesus Christ our Mediator and Redeemer. AMEN.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with you all evermore. AMEN.

VI.

ORDINATION.

538. The Form of Ordaining Ministers.

[When the day appointed for the ordination of Ministers is come, there shall be a Sermon, or Exhortation, declaring the duty and office of such as come to be admitted Ministers, how necessary that order is in the Church of Christ, and also how the people ought to esteem them in their office.]

After which one of the Ministers shall present unto the General Superintendent or President all them that are to be ordained:

I present unto you these persons present to be ordained ministers.

Then their names being read aloud, the General Superintendent or President shall say unto the people:

Brethren, these are they whom we purpose, God willing, this day to ordain ministers. For, after due examination, we find not to the contrary, but that they are lawfully called to this function and ministry, and that they are persons meet for the same. But if there be any of you who knoweth any impediment or crime in any of them, for which he ought not to be received into this holy ministry, let him come forth in the name of God, and show what the crime or impediment is.

[If any crime or impediment be alleged, the General Superintendent or President shall surcease from ordaining that person until such time as the party accused shall be found clear of the crime.]

Then shall be said the Collect, Epistle, and Gospel, as followeth:

The Collect:

Almighty God, Giver of all good things, who by the Holy Spirit hast appointed ministers in Thy Church; mercifully behold these Thy servants now called to the office of ministers, and replenish them so with the truth of Thy doctrine, and adorn them with innocency of life, that, both by word and good example, they may faithfully serve Thee in this office, to the glory of Thy name, and the edification of Thy Church, through the merits of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, world without end. AMEN.

The Epistle (Eph. iv. 7-13).

Unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore He saith, When He ascended up on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now that He ascended, what is it but that He also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that He might fill all things.) And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.

The Gospel (St. John x. 1-16).

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice; and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers. This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which He spake unto them. Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before Me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door: by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth; and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and know My sheep, and am known of Mine. As the Father knoweth Me, even so know I the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold; them

also I must bring, and they shall hear My voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

And that done, the General Superintendent or President shall say unto them as hereafter followeth:

You have heard, brethren, as well in your private examination as in the exhortation which was now made to you, and in the holy lessons taken out of the Gospel, and the writings of the apostles, of what dignity and of how great importance this office is whereunto you are called. And now again, we exhort you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you have in remembrance into how high a dignity, and to how weighty an office you are called: that is to say, to be messengers, watchmen and stewards of the Lord; to teach and to premonish, to feed and provide for the Lord's family; to seek for Christ's sheep that are dispersed abroad, and for His children who are in the midst of this evil world, that they may be saved through Christ for ever.

Have always, therefore, in remembrance how great a treasure is committed to your charge. For they are the sheep of Christ, which He bought with His death, and for whom He shed His blood. The Church and congregation whom you must serve is His spouse and His body. And if it shall happen that the same Church, or any member thereof, do take any hurt or hindrance by reason of your negligence, you know the greatness of the fault, and also the horrible punishment that will ensue. Wherefore consider with yourselves the end of the ministry towards the children of God, towards the spouse and body of Christ; and see that you never cease your labor, your care and diligence, until

you have done all that lieth in you, according to your bounden duty, to bring all such as are or shall be committed to your charge, unto that agreement in the faith and knowledge of God, and to that ripeness and perfectness of age in Christ, that there be no place left among you, either for error in religion or for viciousness in life.

Forasmuch, then, as your office is both of so great excellency, and of so great difficulty, you see with how great care and study you ought to apply yourselves, as well that you may show yourselves dutiful and thankful unto that Lord who hath placed you in so high a dignity, as also to beware that neither you yourselves offend, nor be occasion that others offend. Howbeit you cannot have a mind and will thereto of yourselves, for that will and ability is given of God alone; therefore you ought, and have need, to pray earnestly for His Holy Spirit. And seeing that you cannot compass the doing of so weighty a work, pertaining to the salvation of man, but with doctrine and exhortation taken out of the Holy Scriptures, and with a life agreeable to the same, consider how studious you ought to be in reading and learning the Scriptures, and in framing the manners both of yourselves and of them that specially pertain unto you, according to the rule of the same Scriptures; and, for this self-same cause, how you ought to forsake and set aside (as much as you may) all worldly cares and studies.

We have good hope that you have all weighed and pondered these things long before this time; and that you have clearly determined, by God's grace, to give yourselves wholly to this office, whereunto it has pleased God to call you; so that, as much as lieth in you, you will apply your-

selves wholly to this one thing, and draw all your cares and studies this way, and that you will continue to pray to God the Father, by the mediation of our only Saviour, Jesus Christ, for the heavenly assistance of the Holy Ghost; that, by the daily reading and weighing of the Scriptures, you may wax riper and stronger in your ministry; and that you may so endeavor yourselves, from time to time, to sanctify the lives of you and yours, and to fashion them after the rule and doctrine of Christ, that you may be wholesome and godly examples and patterns for the people to follow.

And now that this present congregation of Christ here assembled may also understand your minds and wills in these things, and that this your promise may the more move you to do your duties; you shall answer plainly to these things which we, in the name of God and His Church, shall demand of you touching the same.

Do you think, in your heart, that you are truly called, according to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, to the office of a minister?

Ans. I think so.

The General Superintendent or President. Are you persuaded that the Holy Scriptures contain sufficiently all doctrines required of necessity for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ? And are you determined out of the said Scriptures to instruct the people committed to your charge, and to teach nothing as required of necessity to eternal salvation, but that which you shall be persuaded may be concluded and proved by the Scriptures?

Ans. I am so persuaded, and have so determined, by God's grace.

The General Superintendent or President. Will you then give your faithful diligence always so to minister the doctrines, and sacraments, and discipline of Christ, as the Lord hath commanded?

Ans. I will so do, by the help of the Lord.

The General Superintendent or President. Will you be ready, with all faithful diligence, to banish and drive away all erroneous and strange doctrines contrary to God's Word; and to use both public and private monitions and exhortations, as well to the sick as to the whole within your charge, as need shall require and occasion shall be given?

Ans. I will, the Lord being my helper.

The General Superintendent or President. Will you be diligent in prayers, and in reading of the Holy Scriptures, and in such studies as help to the knowledge of the same, laying aside the study of the world and the flesh?

Ans. I will endeavor so to do, the Lord being my helper.

The General Superintendent or President. Will you be diligent to frame and fashion yourselves, and your families, according to the doctrines of Christ: and to make both yourselves and them, as much as in you lieth, wholesome examples and patterns to the flock of Christ?

Ans. I will apply myself thereto, the Lord being my helper.

The General Superintendent or President. Will you maintain and set forward, as much as lieth in you, quietness, peace, and love among all Christian people, and especially among them that are or shall be committed to your charge?

Ans. I will do so, the Lord being my helper.

The General Superintendent or President. Will you rever-

ently obey your chief ministers, unto whom is committed the charge and government over you; following with a glad mind and will their godly admonitions, submitting yourselves to their godly judgment?

Ans. I will do so, the Lord being my helper.

Then shall the General Superintendent or President, standing up, say:

Almighty God, who hath given you the will to do all these things, grant also unto you strength and power to perform the same; that He may accomplish His work which He hath begun in you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

[After this the congregation shall be desired, secretly in their prayers, to make their humble supplications to God for all these things, for the which prayers there shall be silence kept for a space.]

After which shall be said by the General Superintendent or President (the persons to be ordained Ministers all kneeling), Veni, Creator, Spiritus, the General Superintendent or President beginning, and the Ministers and others that are present answering by verse, as followeth:

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
And lighten with celestial fire.
Thou the anointing Spirit art,
Who dost Thy seven-fold gifts impart.
Thy blessed unction from above,
Is comfort, life, and fire of love.
Enable with perpetual light
The dulness of our blinded sight.
Anoint and cheer our soiléd face
With the abundance of Thy grace;

Keep far our foes, give peace at home;
Where Thou art guide, no ill can come.
Teach us to know the Father, Son,
And Thee, of both, to be but one;
That through the ages all along,
This may be our endless song;
Praise to Thy eternal merit,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

That done, the General Superintendent or President shall pray in this wise:

Almighty God and heavenly Father, who of Thine infinite love and goodness toward us, hast given to us Thy only and most dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer, and the author of everlasting life; who, after He had made perfect our redemption by His death, and was ascended into heaven, sent abroad into the world His apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers, by whose labor and ministry He gathered together a great flock in all parts of the world, to set forth the eternal praise of Thy holy name: for these so great benefits of Thy eternal goodness, and for that Thou hast vouchsafed to call these Thy servants here present to the same office and ministry appointed for the salvation of mankind, we render unto Thee most hearty thanks: we praise and worship Thee: and we humbly beseech Thee, by the same Thy blessed Son, to grant unto all who either here or elsewhere call upon Thy name, that we may continue to show ourselves thankful unto Thee for these and all other Thy benefits, and that we may daily increase and go forward in the knowledge and faith of Thee

and Thy Son, by the Holy Spirit; so that, as well by these Thy ministers, as by them over whom they shall be appointed Thy ministers, Thy holy name may be forever glorified, and Thy blessed kingdom enlarged, through the same Thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the same Holy Spirit, world without end. AMEN.

When this prayer is ended, the General Superintendent or President, with two or more of the Ministers present, shall lay their hands severally upon the head of every one that receiveth the order of Ministers; the receivers humbly kneeling upon their knees, and the General Superintendent or President saying:

The Lord pour upon thee the Holy Ghost for the office and work of a minister in the Church of God, now committed unto thee by the imposition of our hands. And be thou a faithful dispenser of the Word of God, and of His holy sacraments; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. AMEN.

Then the General Superintendent or President shall deliver to every one of them, kneeling, the Bible into his hands, saying:

Take thou authority to preach the Word of God, and to administer the holy sacraments in the congregation.

Then the General Superintendent or President shall say:

Most merciful Father, we beseech Thee to send upon these Thy servants Thy heavenly blessing, that they may be clothed with righteousness, and that Thy Word spoken by

their mouths may have such success that it may never be spoken in vain. Grant also that we may have grace to hear and receive what they shall deliver out of Thy most holy Word, or agreeably to the same, as the means of our salvation; and that, in all our words and deeds, we may seek Thy glory and the increase of Thy Kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Prevent us, O Lord, in all our doings, with Thy most gracious favor, and further us with Thy continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in Thee, we may glorify Thy holy name, and finally, by Thy mercy, obtain everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Here let the service close with singing and the following benediction:

The peace of God, that passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be among you, and remain with you always. AMEN.

VII.

539. FORM OF SERVICE FOR THE SETTING APART OF DEACONESSES.

After an introductory service at the time appointed, the Chairman of the Deaconess Board, or some other minister, shall present to the General Superintendent, or President of Conference, having charge of the service, the person or persons to be set apart to Deaconess work, saying:

Mr. President—I present unto you *these persons*, to be set apart as *Deaconesses* in the Methodist Church.

The President—Have you reason to believe *them* to be fit and qualified by a godly life and by skill and training in womanly ministrations, to discharge the duties of a Deaconess?

Answer—*They* have given satisfactory evidence, during probation, by practical service and by the prosecution of the prescribed studies, of meetness for this calling.

Then shall the President say to the congregation:

Dearly Beloved—In the record of the earthly life of our Divine Master we learn that he accepted and honored the service rendered Him by loving and devout women. In the apostolic age it was the practice of the Church to give employment to the activity of all believers. Notable among their activities was the employment of godly women of suitable gifts as deaconesses or servants of the Church. St. Paul, writing to the Philippians, says, "Help those women which labored with me in the Gospel." He also commends unto the Church at Rome Phœbe, a Deaconess of the Church, which was at Cenchrea. To this honored

service *these persons* now come to be admitted. We have good confidence that *they are* apt and competent thereto, nevertheless, should there be any of you who know any reason for which it is inexpedient that *these persons*, or any of them, should be so set apart, let it be now declared.

If no impediment be alleged, the President shall read, and the Candidate shall respond as follows:

President—The spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound.

Response—Unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

President—Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we Thee an hungered, and fed Thee? or thirsty, and gave Thee drink? When saw we Thee a stranger, and took Thee in? or naked, and clothed Thee? or when saw we Thee sick, or in prison, and came unto Thee?

Response—And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto Me.

Then all kneeling, the President shall say:

President—Unto Thee lift we up our eyes.

Response—O Thou that dwellest in the heavens;

President—As the eyes of servants look unto the hand of their masters;

Response—And as the eyes of a maiden unto the hand of her mistress;

President—Even so our eyes wait upon Thee, O Lord;

Response—Until Thou have mercy upon us.

President—Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who didst call Phœbe and other devout women to be the servants of Thy Church, enabling them to minister to Thine Apostles and to many others also, we thank Thee that Thou hast called *these, our sisters,* now being set apart to the office of Deaconess, to undertake the like ministration. We beseech Thee to look graciously upon *them* at this hour and bless *them;* anoint *them* with the spirit of wisdom; clothe *them* with the spirit of power, and enrich *them* with all spiritual gifts and graces. Let Thy work appear unto Thy *servants,* and let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon *them;* and establish Thou the work of *their* hands upon *them;* yea, the work of *their* hands establish Thou it. Look upon all Thy servants here present in compassion and love, and grant unto them the fulness of Thy salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The candidate shall then rise, and the President shall say:

Dear Sisters—We rejoice with you that in the providence of God an open door of usefulness has been found for you in the service of the Church of Christ. In our loving Master's wide vineyard there are manifold forms of labor, and to each disciple some fitting task is assigned. To you are accorded peculiar privileges and opportunities. Released from other cares, you give *yourselves* without reservation, according to the will of God, to the service of the Lord and of His Church, wherever your lot may be

cast. Like our blessed Master, you are to go about doing good, ministering, as He did, to the wants of a suffering, sorrowing and sin-laden world. You are to be *angels* of mercy to the poor, to visit the sick, pray with the dying, care for the orphan, seek the wandering, comfort the afflicted, save the sinning, and ever be ready to take up any other duty proper to your calling. Such a ministry confers upon you a great honor, and involves a solemn responsibility. We are persuaded that you have not entered upon it lightly. No doubt, in the sacred stillness of the sanctuary of the heart you have already consecrated *yourselves* to this office and work. What you have done alone with God you are now to do formally and publicly, as the Church sets you apart for her special service in co-operation with her pastors.

The President shall then ask:

Question—Do you believe that you have been led by the Spirit and Providence of God to engage in this work, and to assume the duties of this office?

Answer—I do.

Question—Do you, in the presence of God and this congregation, promise faithfully to perform the duties of a Deaconess in the Church of God, so long as you remain in this calling?

Answer—I will endeavor so to do, the Lord being my helper.

Question—Do you accept the Bible as God's Word, and will you take it as the guide of your life and the source and authority of your spiritual instruction?

Answer—I so accept it, and will so employ it.

Question—Will you strive to walk so close to your Saviour that you may ever carry His presence and benediction to the hearts and homes of those to whom you minister?

Answer—I will endeavor so to do.

Question—Will you accept the direction of those whom the Church may set over you, in the prosecution of your work?

Answer—I will cheerfully do so.

HYMN 923.

She loved her Saviour, and to Him
Her costliest present brought;
To crown His head, or grace His name,
No gift too rare she thought.

So let the Saviour be adored,
And not the poor despised:
Give to the hungry from your hoard,
But all, give all to Christ.

Go, clothe the naked, lead the blind,
Give to the weary rest;
For sorrow's children comfort find,
And help for all distressed.

But give to Christ alone thy heart,
Thy faith, thy love supreme;
Then for His sake thine alms impart,
And so give all to Him.

All present shall kneel and join in silent prayer for the candidates.

Then the President shall say:

Almighty God, who hast given Thy *handmaidens* the will to do all these things, grant also unto *them* power to perform the same, so that all *their* works may be begun, continued and ended in Thee, and that *they* may glorify Thy holy name, and finally obtain everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Then all shall rise, and the President shall present each candidate with her license, saying: Take thou authority to discharge the duties of a Deaconess in the Methodist Church.

The President may then offer a few words of counsel, and close with the following invocation:

May the Holy Spirit of the Living God descend upon you and abide with you evermore. May His holy anointing impart unto you grace for every trial, and gifts for every duty. May His presence be to you a pillar of cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night, all along the journey of life; and may the blessing of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you, now and evermore. *Amen.*

VIII.

540 THE FORM OF RENEWING THE COVENANT.

[After a short sermon, impressing upon every soul the importance of giving himself to God, and that without delay, each Minister is recommended, on his first tour round his Circuit in the New Year, beginning the first Sabbath in January, to read the following directions, or some of them, in every Congregation, and persuade as many as possible to make solemn Covenant with God, and by divine grace, to keep the Covenant inviolate unto the day of His coming:]

I. Get these three principles fixed in your heart: That things eternal are much more considerable than things temporal; that things not seen are as certain as the things that are seen; that upon your present choice depends your eternal lot. Choose Christ and His ways, and you are blessed for ever; refuse, and you are undone for ever. And then,

II. Make your choice.

Turn either to the right hand or to the left; lay both parts before you, with every link of each; Christ with His yoke, His cross, and His crown; or, the devil with his wealth, his pleasure, and curse; and then put it to yourselves thus: "Soul, thou seest what is before thee, what wilt thou do? Which wilt thou have, either the crown or the curse? If thou choosest the crown, remember that the day thou takest this, thou must be content to submit to the cross and yoke, the service and the sufferings of Christ, which are linked to it. What sayest thou? Hadst thou rather take the gains and pleasures of sin, and venture on

the curse? Or wilt thou yield thyself to Christ, and so make sure of the crown?"

If your hearts fly off, and would fain waive the business, leave them not so. If you be unresolved, you are resolved. If you remain undetermined for Christ, you are determined for the devil. Therefore, give not off, but follow your hearts from day to day; let them not rest till the matter be brought to an issue; and see that you make a good choice.

This is your choosing the good part, God and the blessedness of the world to come, for your portion and happiness; and in this is included your renouncing the world and worldly happiness.

III. Embark with Christ.

Adventure yourselves with Him; cast yourselves upon His righteousness, as that which shall bring you to God. If you stay where you are, you perish; and escape home of yourself you cannot. Christ offers, if you will venture with Him, He will bring you home, He will bring you to God. Will you now say to Him, "Lord Jesus, wilt Thou undertake for me? Wilt Thou bring me to God, bring me into the Land of Promise? With Thee will I venture myself; I cast myself upon Thee, upon Thy blood, and Thy righteousness; I lay all my hopes, and venture my whole interest, soul and body, with Thee."

IV. Resign and deliver up yourselves to God in Christ.

"Yield yourselves to the Lord," that is, as His servants; give up the dominion and government of yourselves to Christ. "Neither yield your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin; but yield yourselves to God, as

those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God." "To whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey." Yield yourselves so to the Lord, that you may henceforth be the Lord's: "I am thine," saith the Psalmist. Those that yield themselves to sin and the world in heart say, "Sin, I am thine; world, I am thine;—riches, I am yours; pleasures, I am yours." "I am thine," saith the Psalmist; devoted to Thy fear, dedicated to Thy service. "I am Thine, save me." Give yourselves to Christ, sinners; be devoted to His fear.

And this giving yourself to Him must be such as supposes that you be heartily contented,—

1. That He appoint you your work.
2. That He appoint you your station.

1. That He appoint you your work: That He put you to whatsoever He pleaseth. Servants, as they must do their master's work, so they must do that work which their master appoints them; they must be for any work their master hath for them to do; they must not pick and choose: "This I will do, and that I will not do": they must not say, "This is too hard," or "This is too mean," or "This may be well enough let alone." Good servants, when they have chosen their master, will let their master choose their work, and will not dispute his will, but do it.

Christ hath many services to be done; some are more easy and honorable, others more difficult and disagreeable; some are suitable to our inclinations and interests, others are contrary to both. In some we may please Christ, and please ourselves: as, when He requires us to feed and clothe

ourselves, to provide things honest for our maintenance. Yes, and there are some spiritual duties that are more pleasing than others; as, to rejoice in the Lord, to be blessing and praising God, to be feeding ourselves with the delights and comforts of religion: these are the sweet works of a Christian. But then there are other works, wherein we cannot please Christ but by denying ourselves: as, giving and lending, bearing and forbearing, reproving men for their sins, withdrawing from their company, witnessing against their wickedness, confessing Christ and His name, when it will cause us shame and reproach; sailing against the wind, swimming against the tide, steering contrary to the times, parting with our ease, our liberties, and our accommodations for the name of our Lord Jesus.

[It is desirable that the whole of this Service be prayerfully pondered in private by those who purpose to enter into the Covenant; but, to shorten the service, the ministers may here begin to read, on occasion of the annual renewal of the Covenant in the Methodist Societies.]

It is necessary, beloved, to sit down, and consider what it will cost you to be the servants of Christ, and take a thorough survey of the whole business of Christianity, and not to be engaged thoughtlessly to you know not what.

First, see what it is that Christ doth expect, and then yield yourselves to His whole will. Do not think of compounding or making your own terms with Christ: that will never be allowed you.

Go to Christ, and tell Him, "Lord Jesus, if Thou wilt receive me into Thy house, if Thou wilt but own me as Thy

servant, I will not stand upon terms; impose upon me what conditions Thou pleasest, write down Thine own articles, command me what Thou wilt, put me to anything Thou seest good; let me come under Thy roof, let me be Thy servant, and spare not to command me: I will be no longer mine own, but give myself to Thy will in all things."

2. Let Him appoint you your station and condition; whether it be higher or lower, a prosperous or afflicted state. Be content that Christ should choose your work and choose your condition; that He should have the command of you, and the disposal of you: "Make me what Thou wilt, Lord, and set me where Thou wilt: let me be a vessel of silver or gold, or a vessel of wood or stone; so I be a vessel of honor, of whatsoever form or metal, whether higher or lower, finer or coarser, I am content; if I be not the head, or the eye, or the ear, one of the nobler and more honorable instruments Thou wilt employ, let me be the hand, or the foot, one of the most laborious, the lowest, and most contemptible of all the servants of the Lord; let my dwelling be in the dust, my portion in the wilderness, my name and lot amongst the hewers of wood and drawers of water, among the door-keepers of thy house; anywhere, where I may be serviceable. I put myself wholly into Thy hands; put me to what Thou wilt, rank me with whom Thou wilt; put me to doing; put me to suffering; let me be employed for Thee, or laid aside for Thee; exalted for Thee, or trodden under foot for Thee; let me be full, let me be empty; let me have all things, let me have nothing; I freely and heartily resign all to Thy pleasure and disposal."

This is closing with Christ as your King and Sovereign

Lord; and in this is included your renouncing the devil and all his works, the flesh and its lusts; together with your consenting to all the laws and ordinances of Christ and His providential government.

Beloved, such an agreement with Christ as you have here been exhorted to, is that wherein the essence of Christianity lies. When you have chosen the incorruptible crown,—that is, when you have chosen God to be your portion and happiness,—when you have adventured, and laid up your whole interest and all your hopes with Christ, casting yourselves wholly upon the merits of His death; when you have understandingly and heartily resigned yourselves to Him, resolving forever to be at His command, and at His disposal; then you are Christians indeed, and never till then. Christ will be the Saviour of none but His servants. He is the author of eternal salvation to those who obey Him; Christ will have no servants but by consent; His people are a willing people; Christ will accept of no consent but *in full* to all He requires; He will be all in all, or He will be nothing.

Next confirm and complete all this by solemn covenant. Give yourselves to the Lord as His servants, and bind yourselves to Him as His covenant servants.

Upon your entering into covenant with God, the covenant of God stands firm to you: God gives you leave, every one, to put in his own name into the covenant grant; if it be not found there at last, it will be your own fault; if it be not there, there will be nothing found in the whole covenant belonging unto you; if it be there, all is yours; if you have come into the bond of the covenant, you shall have

your share in the blessings of the covenant. "Thou hast avouched the Lord this day to be thy God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His statutes, and His commandments, and His judgments, to hearken to His voice; and the Lord hath avouched thee this day to be His peculiar people, as He hath promised thee. (Deut. xxvi. 17, 18.) Observe it: The same day that they avouched the Lord to be their God, the same day the Lord avouched them to be His peculiar people. The same day that they engaged to keep the commandments of God, the same day the Lord engaged to keep His promise with them.

There is a two-fold covenanting with God. In *profession*, or in *reality;* an entering our names, or an engaging our hearts. The former is done in baptism, by all that are baptized, who, by receiving that seal of the covenant, are visibly, or in profession, entered into it. The latter is also two-fold.

1. VIRTUAL. Which is done by all those that have sincerely made that closure with God in Christ which we have spoken of. Those that have chosen the Lord, embarked with Christ, resigned, and given themselves to the Lord, have virtually covenanted with Him.

2. FORMAL. Which is our binding ourselves to the Lord by solemn vow or promise to stand to our choice. And this may be either inward in the soul, or outward, and expressed either by word, lifting up the hands, subscribing with the hand, or the like; and by how much the more express and solemn our covenanting with God is, by so much the more sensibly and strongly is it likely to hold our hearts to Him.

Now, that which we would persuade you to, is this solemn and expressed covenanting with God; and in order to the putting this matter into practice, take these few directions:—

1. Seek earnestly His special assistance, and gracious acceptance of you.

2. Consider distinctly all the conditions of the Covenant, as they have been laid before you.

3. Search your hearts, whether you either have already or can now freely make such a closure with God in Christ as you have been exhorted to. Especially consider what your sins are, and examine whether you can resolve to forego them all. Consider what the laws of Christ are, how holy, strict, and spiritual, and whether you can, upon deliberation, make choice of them all (even those that most cross your interests and corrupt inclinations), as the rule of your whole life.

First. Be sure you be clear in these matters; see that you do not lie unto God.

Secondly. Compose your spirits into the most serious frame possible, suitable to a transaction of so high importance.

Thirdly. Lay hold on the covenant of God, and rely upon His promise of giving grace and strength, whereby you may be enabled to perform your promise. Trust not to your own strength, or to the strength of your own resolutions, but take hold on his strength.

Fourthly. Resolve to be faithful. Having engaged your hearts, opened your mouths, and subscribed with your hands to the Lord, resolve in His strength never to go back.

[Here let the Minister request all who are willing to engage in the renewal of the Covenant, to signify it by standing up, after which, in the name of the congregation, he shall open his lips to the Lord, in these words, all devoutly kneeling :]

O most holy and most merciful God! for the passion of Thy Son, we beseech Thee accept of us poor prodigals now prostrating ourselves at Thy door. We have fallen from Thee by our iniquity, and are by nature heirs of death, and a thousand-fold more children of hell by our sinful practice; but of Thine infinite grace Thou hast promised mercy to us in Christ, if we will but turn to Thee with all our hearts; therefore, upon the call of Thy Gospel, we are now come in, and, throwing down our weapons, submit ourselves to Thy mercy.

And because Thou requirest, as the condition of our peace with Thee, that we should put away our idols, and be at defiance with all Thine enemies, which, we acknowledge, we have wickedly sided with against Thee, we here, from the bottom of our hearts, renounce them all; firmly covenanting with Thee not to allow ourselves in any known sin, but conscientiously to use all the means that we know Thou hast prescribed for the death and utter destruction of all our corruptions. And whereas, formerly, we have inordinately let out our affections upon the world, we do here resign our hearts to Thee; humbly protesting before Thy glorious Majesty, that it is our firm resolution, and that we do unfeignedly desire grace from Thee, that when Thou shalt call us hereunto, we may practice this our resolution, to forsake all that is dear unto us in this world, rather than turn from Thee to the ways of sin; and that we will watch against

all temptations, whether of prosperity or adversity, lest they should withdraw our hearts from Thee, beseeching Thee also to help us against the temptations of Satan, to whose wicked suggestions we resolve, by Thy grace, never to yield. And because our own righteousness is but filthy rags, we renounce all confidence therein; and acknowledge that we are of ourselves hopeless, helpless, undone creatures, without righteousness or strength.

And forasmuch as Thou hast, of Thy boundless mercy, offered most graciously to us, wretched sinners, to be again our God through Christ, if we would accept of Thee; we call heaven and earth to record this day, that we do here solemnly avouch Thee for the Lord our God; and with all possible veneration, bowing our souls before Thy most sacred Majesty, we do here give up ourselves to Thee, the Lord Jehovah, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, for Thy servants; promising and vowing to serve Thee, in holiness and righteousness, all the days of our lives.

And since Thou hast appointed the Lord Jesus Christ the only means of coming unto Thee, we do here, upon our bended knees, accept of Him as the only new and living way by which sinners may have access to Thee.

O blessed Jesus, we come to Thee hungry, wretched, miserable, blind, and naked; guilty, condemned malefactors, unworthy to wash the feet of the servants of our Lord, much more to be joined in covenant to the King of Glory; but since such is Thine unparalleled love, we here, with all our power, accept Thee, and take Thee for our head and Lord; for better, for worse; for richer, for poorer; for all times and conditions, to love, honor, and obey Thee be-

fore all others, and this to the death. We embrace Thee in all Thy offices; we renounce our own worthiness, and do here avow Thee for the Lord, our righteousness; we renounce our own wisdom, and do here take Thee for our only guide; we renounce our own will, and do take Thy will for our law.

And since Thou hast told us we must suffer if we will reign, we do here covenant with Thee, to take our lot as it falls with Thee, and, by Thy grace assisting, to run all hazards with Thee; verily purposing, that neither life nor death shall part between Thee and us.

And because Thou hast been pleased to give us Thy holy laws as the rule of our lives, and the way in which we should walk to Thy kingdom, we do here willingly put ourselves under Thy yoke, and set our shoulders to Thy burden; and, subscribing to all Thy laws, as holy, just, and good, we solemnly take them as the rule of our words, thoughts, and actions; promising that, though our flesh contradict and rebel, we will endeavor to order and govern our whole lives according to Thy direction.

[Here shall follow a season of silent prayer. Then the whole Congregation, led by the Minister, shall repeat audibly the following words:]

Now, Almighty God, Searcher of Hearts, Thou knowest that I make this Covenant with Thee this day without any known guile or reservation, beseeching Thee, if Thou espiest any flaw or falsehood therein, that Thou wouldst discover it to me, and help me to do it aright.

And now, glory be to Thee, O God the Father, whom I

shall be bold, from this day forward, to look upon as my God and Father, that ever Thou shouldst find out such a way for the recovery of undone sinners.

Glory be to Thee, O God the Son, who hast loved me, and washed me from my sins in Thine own blood, and art now become my Saviour and Redeemer.

Glory be to Thee, O God the Holy Ghost, who, by the finger of Thine Almighty power, hast turned about my heart from sin to God.

O great Jehovah, the Lord God Omnipotent, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Thou art now become my covenant-friend, and I, through Thine infinite grace, have become Thy covenant-servant. Amen. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.

[The Minister may here conclude with singing and extemporaneous prayer.]

NOTE.—*To members of the Church.* This covenant we advise you to make, not only in heart, but in word; not only in word, but in writing; and that you would, with all possible reverence, spread the writing before the Lord, as if you would present it to Him as your act and deed; and when you have done this, set your hand to it; keep it as a memorial of the solemn transactions that have passed between God and you, and that you may have recourse to it in doubts and temptations.

IX.

LAYING A CORNER-STONE.

541. Form for Laying the Corner-Stone of a Church.

The Minister, standing near the place where the stone is to be laid, shall say unto the Congregation:

Dearly Beloved: We are taught in the Word of God, that, although the heaven of heavens cannot contain the Eternal One, much less the walls of temples made with hands, yet His delight is ever with the sons of men, and that wherever two or three are gathered in His name, there is He in the midst of them. In all ages His servants have separated certain places for His worship: Jacob erected a stone in Bethel for God's house; Moses made a tabernacle in the desert; and Solomon builded a temple for the Lord, which He filled with the glory of His presence before all the people. We are now assembled to lay the corner-stone of a new house for the worship of the God of our fathers. Let us not doubt that He will favorably approve our godly purpose, and let us now devoutly unite in singing His praise, and in prayer for His blessing on our undertaking.

Let an appropriate Hymn be sung.

Then shall the Minister say:

Let us pray.

Most glorious God, heaven is Thy throne, and the earth is Thy footstool; what house then can be builded for Thee, or where is the place of Thy rest? Yet, blessed be Thy

name, O Lord God, that it hath pleased Thee to have Thy habitation among the sons of men, and to dwell in the midst of the assembly of the saints upon the earth. And now, especially, we render thanks to Thee, O God, that it hath pleased Thee to put it into the hearts of Thy servants to erect in this place a house for Thy worship. We thank Thee for Thy grace which has inclined them to contribute of their substance for the glory of Thy name: and we pray Thee to continue Thy blessing upon their pious undertaking. AMEN.

May many unite with them in their holy work, until this habitation of Thy house shall be completed, and ready for dedication to Thy service, free from all debt or claim of man. AMEN.

May peace and harmony prevail in the counsels of Thy servants. May the work of this building be accomplished without hurt or accident to any person. And when Thou shalt have prospered the work of their hands upon them, and this house shall be prepared for Thy service, grant that all who shall enjoy the benefit of this pious work may show forth their thankfulness, by making a right use of it, to the glory of Thy blessed name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Grant that all who shall hereafter worship Thee in the temple here to be builded, may so serve and please Thee in all holy exercises of godliness, that in the end they may come to the holy place, made without hands, whose builder and maker is God. AMEN.

Hear us, O Lord, for Thou art our God in whom we trust. And when we shall cease to pray unto Thee on earth, may

we, with all those who in like manner have erected such places to Thy name, and with all Thy glorified saints, eternally praise Thee for all Thy goodness vouchsafed unto us on earth, and laid up for us in heaven. AMEN.

Accept these our prayers, we beseech Thee, for the sake of Thy dear Son, who hath taught us when we pray to say, "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." AMEN.

Then the Minister shall read the following Psalm, or the Minister and people may read it in alternate verses; the parts in italics to be read by the people:

PSALM CXXXII.

Lord, remember David, and all his afflictions:

How he sware unto the Lord, and vowed unto the mighty God of Jacob;

Surely I will not come into the tabernacle of my house, nor go up into my bed;

I will not give sleep to mine eyes, or slumber to mine eyelids,

Until I find out a place for the Lord,

An habitation for the mighty God of Jacob.

Lo, we heard it at Ephratah: we found it in the fields of the wood.

We will go into His tabernacles: we will worship at His footstool.

Arise, O Lord, into Thy rest; Thou, and the ark of Thy strength.

Let Thy priests be clothed with righteousness;
And let Thy saints shout for joy.

For Thy servant David's sake turn not away the face of Thine anointed.

The Lord hath sworn in truth unto David; He will not turn from it;

Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne.

If thy children will keep My covenant and My testimony that I shall teach them, their children shall also sit upon thy throne for evermore.

For the Lord hath chosen Zion; He hath desired it for His habitation.

This is My rest forever: here will I dwell; for I have desired it.

I will abundantly bless her provision:
I will satisfy her poor with bread.
I will also clothe her priests with salvation:
And her saints shall shout aloud for joy.
There will I make the horn of David to bud:
I have ordained a lamp for Mine anointed.
His enemies will I clothe with shame:
But upon himself shall his crown flourish.

The Lesson. 1 Cor. iii. 9-23.

For we are laborers together with God; ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon.

But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire. Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy: for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are. Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in his own craftiness. And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain. Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours; whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; and ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's.

Then shall follow the Sermon, or an Address suitable to the occasion, after which the contributions of the people shall be received.

Then shall the Minister, standing by the stone, exhibit to the Congregation a vessel to be placed in an excavation of the stone. [It may contain a copy of the Bible, the Hymn Book, the Discipline, Church periodicals of recent date, the names of the Pastor, Trustees, and

Building Committee of the Church, with such other documents and articles as may be desired. A list of these may be read.] *After which the person thereto appointed shall deposit the vessel in the stone and cover it; and shall lay the stone, assisted by the builder, saying:*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, I lay this corner-stone for the foundation of a house to be builded and consecrated to the service of Almighty God, according to the order and usages of the Methodist Church. AMEN.

The service may conclude with extempore prayer and the benediction.

X.

DEDICATION OF A CHURCH.

542. FORM FOR THE DEDICATION OF A CHURCH.

The Congregation being assembled in the Church, the Minister shall say:

DEARLY BELOVED: The Scriptures teach us that God is well pleased with those who build temples to His name. We have heard how He filled the temple of Solomon with His glory, and how in the second temple He manifested Himself still more gloriously. Let us not doubt that He will approve our purpose of dedicating this house for the performance of the several offices of religious worship; and let us now devoutly join in praise to Almighty God that this godly undertaking hath been so far completed; and in prayer for His further blessing upon all who have been engaged therein, and upon all who shall hereafter worship in this place.

Let an appropriate Hymn be sung, and extempore prayer be offered, the Congregation all kneeling during the prayer.

Then shall the Minister, or some one appointed by him, read:

The First Lesson. 2 Chron. vi. 1, 2, 18-21, 40-42; vii. 1-4.

Then said Solomon, The Lord hath said that He would dwell in the thick darkness. But I have built an house of habitation for Thee, and a place for Thy dwelling forever.

But will God in very deed dwell with men on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain Thee; how much less this house which I have built! Have respect, therefore, to the prayer of Thy servant, and to his supplication, O Lord my God, to hearken unto the cry and the prayer which Thy servant prayeth before Thee: that Thine eyes may be open upon this house day and night, upon the place whereof Thou hast said Thou wouldst put Thy name there; to hearken unto the prayer which Thy servant prayeth toward this place. Hearken, therefore, unto the supplications of Thy servant, and of Thy people Israel, which they shall make toward this place: hear Thou from Thy dwelling place, even from heaven; and when Thou hearest, forgive.

Now, my God, let, I beseech Thee, Thine eyes be open, and let Thine ears be attent unto the prayer that is made in this place. Now therefore arise, O Lord God, into Thy resting place, Thou, and the ark of Thy strength: let Thy priests, O Lord God, be clothed with salvation, and let Thy saints rejoice in goodness. O Lord God, turn not away the face of Thine anointed: remember the mercies of David Thy servant.

Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the Lord filled the house. And the priests could not enter into the house of the Lord, because the glory of the Lord had filled the Lord's house. And when all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the Lord upon the house, they bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement, and worshipped, and praised the Lord, saying, For He is good; for His mercy endureth forever. Then the king and all the people offered sacrifices before the Lord.

The Second Lesson. Heb. x. 19-26.

Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which He hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, His flesh; and having an high priest over the house of God; let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for He is faithful that promised;) and let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works; not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins.

Then shall a hymn be sung, after which the Minister shall deliver a Sermon suitable to the occasion, and after the Sermon the contributions of the people shall be received.

Then shall the Minister read the following Psalm, or the Minister and the Congregation shall read it alternately; the parts in italics to be read by the Congregation:

PSALM CXXII.

I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.

Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is builded as a city that is compact together:

Whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,

Unto the testimony of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the Lord.

For *there are set thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.*

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

They shall prosper that love thee.

Peace be within thy walls,

And prosperity within thy palaces.

For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will now say, Peace be within thee.

Because of the house of the Lord our God I will seek thy good.

Then let the Trustees stand up before the Minister, and one of them, or some one in their behalf, say unto him,

We present unto you this building, to be dedicated as a church for the worship and service of Almighty God.

Then shall the Minister request the Congregation to stand, while he repeats the following

DECLARATION:

DEARLY BELOVED: It is meet and right, as we learn from the Holy Scriptures, that houses erected for the public worship of God should be specially set apart and dedicated to religious uses. For such a dedication we are now assembled. With gratitude, therefore, to Almighty God, who has signally blessed His servants in their holy undertaking to erect this church, we dedicate it to His service, for the reading of the Holy Scriptures, the preaching of the Word of God, the administration of the holy sacraments, and for all other exercises of religious worship and service, according to the discipline and usages of the Methodist Church. And, as the dedication of the temple is vain without the solemn consecration of the worshippers also, I now call upon you all to dedicate yourselves anew to the service of God. To Him let our souls be dedicated, that they may be renewed after the image of Christ. To Him let our bodies be dedicated, that they may be fit temples for the indwelling of the Holy Ghost. To Him let our labors and business be dedicated, that their fruit may tend to the glory of His great name, and to the advancement of His kingdom. And that He may graciously accept this our solemn act, let us pray.

The Congregation kneeling, the Minister shall offer the following prayer:

O most glorious Lord, we acknowledge that we are not worthy to offer unto Thee anything belonging unto us; yet

we beseech Thee, in Thy great goodness, graciously to accept the dedication of this place to Thy service, and to prosper this the work of our hands; receive the prayers and intercession of all Thy servants who shall call upon Thee in this house; and give them grace to prepare their hearts to serve Thee with reverence and godly fear; affect them with an awful apprehension of Thy divine majesty, and a deep sense of their own unworthiness; that so approaching Thy sanctuary with lowliness and devotion, and coming before Thee with pure hearts, bodies undefiled, and minds sanctified, they may always perform a service acceptable to Thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Regard, O Lord, the supplication of Thy servants, and grant that whosoever shall be dedicated to Thee in this house by baptism, may be found at last in the number of Thy faithful children. AMEN.

Grant, O Lord, that whosoever shall receive in this place the blessed sacrament of the body and blood of Christ, may come to that holy ordinance with true repentance, faith, and charity; and being filled with Thy grace and heavenly benediction, may obtain remission of their sins, and all other benefits of His death. AMEN.

Grant, O Lord, that by Thy holy Word, read and preached in this place, and by the Holy Spirit grafting it inwardly in the heart, the hearers thereof may perceive and know what things they ought to do, and may receive power to perform the same. AMEN.

Now therefore arise, O Lord, and come unto this place of Thy rest, Thou, and the ark of Thy strength. Let Thine eyes be open toward this house day and night; and let

Thine ears be attent to the prayers of Thy children, which they shall offer unto Thee in this place: and do thou hear them from heaven, Thy dwelling place, and when Thou hearest, forgive. O Lord, we beseech Thee, that here and elsewhere Thy ministers may be clothed with righteousness, and Thy saints rejoice in Thy salvation. And may we all, with Thy people everywhere, grow up into a holy temple in the Lord, and be at last received into the house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. And to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be glory and praise, world without end. AMEN.

The services may conclude with the Doxology and the Benediction.

APPENDIX I.

COURSES OF STUDY FOR THE MINISTRY OF THE METHODIST CHURCH.*

The following Curricula were adopted for the ensuing Quadrennium, to take effect after the Annual Conferences, 1903 :

543. I. ORDINARY COURSE.

PRELIMINARY.

A. THEOLOGICAL.

Wesley's Sermons, I. to XX. (Burwash).
The Catechism of The Methodist Church (1898).
The Text of the New Testament, without introduction, note or commentary. (Examination to be confined to the contents of the several books, and accurate quoting of important passages mentioned in NOTE on pages 351, 352.)

B. LITERARY.

Candidates for the ministry shall be required to present (*a*) a certificate or other evidence of matriculation (with

* A special Catalogue of Books on the Course of Study may be had on application to the Book Rooms at Toronto, Montreal or Halifax.

the Greek option) into a Canadian or other British University, or (*b*) an equivalent from one of our own Colleges; provided that a matriculated student who has not taken Greek shall be required to pass a satisfactory examination on White's Beginner's Greek Book, the Exercises included, or Frost, for Eastern Conferences.

FIRST YEAR (ON A CIRCUIT).

1. English Bible Study.
   The Gospels according to Matthew, Mark and Luke, with Stalker's Life of Christ and McClymont's, The New Testament and its Writers.

2. Old Testament History.
   Robertson's Old Testament and its Contents, Macoun's, The Holy Land in Geography and in History.

3. Greek Testament.
   The Sermon on the Mount (Cambridge Greek Testament for Colleges).

4. Theology—The Doctrines of Methodism.
   Wesley's Sermons, I. to LII. (Burwash).
   Wesley on Christian Perfection.
   Fletcher's Last Check (On Christian Perfection).
   Steele's, A Substitute for Holiness, or Antinomianism Revived.

5. Homiletics and Practical Theology.
   A Written Sketch* and a previously prepared Written Sermon.
   Axtell's Organized Sunday School.

SECOND YEAR (ON A CIRCUIT).

1. English Bible Study.
   Acts of the Apostles, with Watson's Apostolic Age and Moulton's Old World and New Faith.

2. Greek Testament.
   St. John I. to X. (Cambridge Greek Testament).

*Sketch of Sermon to be prepared on one of three texts designated by Examiner at the time of Examination. Value of Sketch or Sermon to be reported in the general standing.

3. Theology.
   Gregory's Handbook for Theological Students.

4. Church History.
   Methodism to the Death of Wesley (Stevens).
   Canadian Methodism. The Centennial Volume. or History, by T. Watson Smith.

5. Homiletics and Practical Theology.
   A Written Sketch* and a previously prepared Written Sermon.
   Gladden's, The Christian Pastor and the Working Church.
   Wells' Sunday School Success.
   The Discipline of The Methodist Church.
   Part I., Part II. (Chap. III.), Part IV., and Constitution of the Sunday School and Epworth League.

THIRD YEAR (ON A CIRCUIT).

1. English Bible Study.
   The Epistles of Paul, with introduction by Findlay.

2. Greek Testament.
   St. Mark's Gospel (Cambridge Greek Testament).

3. Theology.
   The Design and Use of Holy Scripture (Randles).
   The New Life in Christ (Beet).

4. Church History.
   Foreign Missions after a Century (Dennis).
   Modern Church History (Slater).

5. Homiletics and Practical Theology.
   A Written Sketch* and a previously prepared Written Sermon.
   Sunday Schools (Trumbull's Yale Lectures).

FOURTH YEAR (AT COLLEGE).

1. Theology.
   Systematic. Lectures, or Vol. I., Miley or Burwash.
   Historical. Lectures, or Fisher.

NOTE.—Hebrew may be taken instead of Historical Theology.

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*Sketch of Sermon to be prepared on one of three texts designated by Examiner at the time of Examination. Value of Sketch or Sermon to be reported in the general standing.

2. Hermeneutics. Lectures or Terry (latest edition.)
3. Greek Testament.
   New Testament Introduction (Dods or Kerr).
   Romans (Burwash).
4. Church History.
   Primitive Church (Rainy).
   Mediæval Church (Fisher).
5. Logic.
   University Pass Course, or an equivalent College Course.
6. Psychology.
   University Pass Course, or an equivalent College Course.
7. Rhetoric.
   University Pass Course, or an equivalent College Course.
8. Homiletics and Pastoral Theology.
   Lectures on the Composition and Delivery of Sermons, with Practical Exercises in Elocution and Voice Culture.

FIFTH YEAR (AT COLLEGE).

1. Theology.
   Systematic. Lectures, or Miley, Vol. II.; or Burwash, Vol. II.
   Historical (Fisher).

NOTE.—Hebrew may be substituted for Historical Theology.

2. Greek Testament.
   Hebrews.
3. Old Testament Introduction (Lectures).
4. English Bible Study.
   The Pentateuch.
5. Church History.
   The Reformation and Modern Church History (Fisher).
6. Ethics.
   University Pass Course, or an equivalent College Course.
7. Apologetics.
   Theism.
   Christian Evidences.
8. Political Science or Christian Ethics, or English Literature.
9. Practical Theology.
   Church Polity and Discipline.
   Practical Exercises in Elocution and Voice Culture.
   Christian Didactics (Lectures, or Hamill's Sunday School Teacher).

544. II. COURSE FOR GRADUATES IN ARTS.

Preliminary.

Wesley's Sermons, I. to LII. (Burwash).
The Catechism of The Methodist Church (1898).
The Text of the New Testament, without introduction, note or commentary. (Examination to be confined to the contents of the several books, and accurate quoting of important passages mentioned in Note on pages 351,352).

After the Preliminary Course, Probationers who are Graduates in Arts may elect to take either the course prescribed for the degree of B.D. in one of our own Colleges, or the following, one year of which, including Homiletics and Church Polity and Discipline, must be taken at College. Examinations in the following shall be conducted by our Connexional Colleges. For this purpose every Graduate who is a Probationer on a Circuit must have his name attached by the Stationing Committee to the College, by which he is to be examined.

First Year.

1. Apologetics.
   Theism (Bowne).
   Christian Evidences (Bruce's Apologetics).
2. Systematic Theology, Part I.—(Lectures, or Miley, or Burwash, Vol. I.).
3. New Testament Exegesis—First year B.D., or Gospels of Luke and John.
4. Hermeneutics.
5. New Testament Introduction and Canon—(Dods' or Kerr's Introduction, and Westcott on the Canon).
6. Fletcher's Last Check (on Christian Perfection) and Steele's, A Substitute for Holiness, or Antinomianism Revived.
7. Old Testament History—(Smith, Macoun's Holy Land in Geography and in History; Robertson, The Old Testament and its Contents.)

8. Old Testament Exegesis—First year B.D., or English Bible Study, the Pentateuch.
9. Homiletics—(Lectures, with practical exercises in Elocution and Voice Culture).

Second Year.

1. Systematic Theology, Part II.—(Lectures, or Miley, or Burwash. Vol. II.).
2. Christian Ethics—(Newman Smyth).
3. New Testament Exegesis—Romans (Burwash).
4. Church History.
   The Primitive Church (Rainy).
   The Mediæval Church (Fisher).
5. New Testament Theology—Second year B.D., Lectures or Weiss, Vol. I., pp. 1 to 274; Vol. II., pp. 150 to 310; or Stevens.
6. Old Testament Exegesis—Second year B.D., or English Bible Study, Isaiah and the Minor Prophets.
7. Old Testament Introduction—(Lectures).
8. Homiletic Exercises.
   Two written Sermons and two Sketches of Sermons.
   Christian Didactics—(Lectures, or Hamill's Sunday School Teacher).

Third Year.

1. Historical Theology—(Lectures, or Fisher).
2. Comparative Religion.
   Studies in Comparative Religion and in Eastern Religions (Geden).
   Religions of China (Legge).
3. New Testament Exegesis.
   Hebrews (Davidson).
4. Church History—The Reformation and Modern Church History (Fisher), History of Methodism (Stevens), and the Centennial Volume, or T. Watson Smith's History.
5. Old Testament Theology—Second year B.D., Lectures, or Schultz, Vol. I., pp. 1 to 300.
6. Homiletics and Elocution.
   Two written Sermons and two Sketches of Sermons.

7. Practical Theology—

Discipline of The Methodist Church.
Church Polity (Lectures or Gregory).
History of Missions: Foreign Missions after a Century (Dennis); Missionary Annals (Leonard).
Yale Lectures on Sabbath Schools (Trumbull).

The order, texts and methods of treatment will be those used in the several Colleges in which the examinations will be conducted.

It is required that students must pass an examination on Wesley's Sermons, Stevens' History of Methodism, and the Discipline, unless they have previously passed on these subjects.

NOTE.—The following selections from the New Testament are to be committed to memory for the Preliminary Theological Examination of Candidates for the Ministry of The Methodist Church, as referred to in pages 345 and 349.

In addition to the proof-texts of the Catechism the following are prescribed:

The Sermon on the Mount	Matt.	ch.	5-7.		
The Parable of the Sower	Matt.	"	13.	vv.	1-23
The Last Judgment	Matt.	"	25.	"	31-46
The Great Commandment	Matt.	"	22.	"	34-40
The Great Commission	Matt.	"	28.	"	16-20
The Parable of the Growing Corn	Mark	"	4.	"	26-29
The Parable of the Prodigal Son	Luke	"	15.	"	11-32
The Journey to Emmaus	Luke	"	24.	"	25-32
The Word	John	"	1.	"	1-18
The Discourse with Nicodemus	John	"	3.	"	1-21
The Good Shepherd	John	"	10.	"	11-18
The Eucharistic Discourses and Prayer	John	"	14.		
	John	"	15.	"	1-8
	John	"	17.		
The Sermon of Peter at Pentecost	Acts	"	2.	"	37-47
The Sermon of Peter to Cornelius	Acts	"	10.	"	34 48
The Sermon of Paul on Mars Hill	Acts	"	17.	"	22 32
Paul at Miletus	Acts	"	20.	"	17-35
Justification by Faith	Rom.	"	3.	"	20-26
	Rom.	"	5.		
Christian Sonship	Rom.	"	8.		
Christian Duty	Rom.	"	12.		
Charity	1 Cor.	"	13.		

The Resurrection	1 Cor.	ch. 15.		
The Privileges of Believers	Eph.	" 2.	vv.	1-10
	Eph.	" 3.	"	14-21
The Christian Armour	Eph.	" 6.	"	10-20
The Mind of Christ	Phil.	" 2.	"	1-11
	Phil.	" 3.	"	7-16
Heavenly Mindedness	Col.	" 3.	"	1-17
The Dead in Christ	1 Thess.	" 4.	"	13-19
Christian Perfection	1 Thess.	" 5.	"	12-28
The Charge to Timothy	1 Tim.	" 6.	"	11-14
Paul's Confession	2 Tim.	" 4.	"	1-8
The Universal Gospel	Titus	" 2.	"	11-14
The Son of God	Heb.	" 1.		
The Elder Brother	Heb.	" 2.	"	10-18
The Great High Priest	Heb.	" 4.	"	14-16
The New Covenant	Heb.	" 8.	"	6-13
The Mediator	Heb.	" 9.	"	11-28
Faith	Heb.	" 11.	"	1-8
The Author and Perfecter of Faith	Heb.	" 12.	"	1-24
Pure Religion	James	" 1.		
The Living Hope	1 Peter	" 1.		
Our Calling	2 Peter	" 1.	"	1-11
Fellowship with the Father	1 John	" 1.		
The Propitiation	1 John	" 2.	"	1, 2
The Love of the Father	1 John	" 3.	"	1-3
Perfect Love	1 John	" 4.	"	7-21
John's Vision of Christ	Rev.	" 1.		
The New Song	Rev.	" 5.	"	8-14
The Song of the Redeemed	Rev.	" 7.	"	9-17
The Blessed Dead	Rev.	" 14.	"	13
The Great White Throne	Rev.	" 20.	"	11-15
The New Jerusalem	Rev.	" 21.	"	1-11
	Rev	" 21.	"	22-27
The River of Life	Rev.	" 22.	"	1-5

The Revised Version is recommended.

545. III. FRENCH COURSE.

Introduction.

1. Grammaire Française et Composition.
2. Arithmétique et Géographie.
3. Rhétorique (Girard).

4. Catéchisme Méthodiste, No. II.
5. Articles de Religion et Régles Générales de l'Eglise Méthodiste.

Première Année.

1. Vie de Jean Wesley, Lelièvre.
2. Voie du Salut (Wesley).
3. Perfection Chrétienne (Wesley).
4. Manuel de la Bible (Angus), 1er Partie, Chaps. I. à III.
5. Etude Biblique (Godet), Vol. I.
6. Histoire de la Réformation (D'Aubigné), Vol. I.
7. Epitre de Jacques (Chapuis).
8. Grammaire Grecque.
9. Grammaire Latine.

On requiert la Lecture des Sermons de Wesley, 1er Serie, No. I. à XXVI.

Deuxième Année.

1. Manuel de la Bible (Angus), 1er Partie, Chaps. IV. à VII.
2. Etude Biblique (Godet), Vol. II.
3. Histoire de la Réformation (D'Aubigné), Vol. II.
4. Histoire de la Littérature Française (Vinet), Vol. I.
5. Philosophie (Traité Elémentaire par Janet), pp. 1-316.
6. Histoire de l'Eglise (Bonnefon).
7. Histoire Générale (Duruy).
8. Nouveau Testament Grec, 1er Chap. St. Jean.
9. Nouveau Testament Latin, 1er Chap. St. Jean.

Troisième Année.

1. Manuel de la Bible (Angus), 2me Partie, Chaps. I. à IV.
2. Histoire de la Réformation (D'Aubigné), Vol. III.
3. Histoire de la Littérature Française (Vinet), Vol. II.
4. Histoire des Dogmes (Bonifas), Vol. I.
5. Homilétique (Vinet).
6. Philosophie Elémentaire (Janet), pp. 317-375.
7. Traité de la Vérité de la Religion Chrétienne (Abbadie), Vol. I.
8. Nouveau Testament Grec (Sermon sur la Montagne).
9. Nouveau Testament Latin (Sermon sur la Montagne).

Quatrième Année.

1. Manuel de la Bible (Angus), 2me Partie, Chaps. V. à VII.
2. Histoire de la Réformation (D'Aubigné), Vols. IV. et V.
3. Histoire des Dogmes (Bonifas), Vol. II.
4. Traité de la Vérité de la Religon Chrétienne (Abbadie), Vol. II.
5. Philosophie Elémentaire (Janet), pp. 716-951.
6. Cours de Physique sans Mathématiques (Ganot).
7. Manuel de Controverse (Dr. Malan).
8. Le Saint Esprit (Tophel).
9. Discipline de l'Eglise Méthodiste.

All of the above books in the French Course of Study, except the last, may at present be obtained from M. A. Chastel, Librairie Evangélique, 4 Rue Roquépine, Paris, France.

In case of text-books being out of print, the Principal of the French Methodist Institute, with the Principal and Registrar of the Wesleyan Theological College, are authorized to designate equivalents for them.

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546. IV. COURSE OF STUDY FOR EVANGELISTS FOR JAPANESE WORK.

1. Apologetics (Bruce).
2. Theology—Wesley's Sermons; Burwash's Manual of Christian Theology; Stevens' Theology of the New Testament.
3. Biblical Introduction—Old Testament, Wright; New Testament, Dods.
4. Exegesis—Old Testament—Exodus, Psalms, Isaiah; New Testament—Luke, Acts, Hebrews.
5. History—Old Testament, Ammerman; New Testament, The Incarnate Saviour (translation); work based on Ramsay's Paul, the Traveller and Roman Citizen; History of Doctrine, Sheldon; History of Methodism, Chappell and Stevens.

6. Homiletics—Yamaka (translation).
7. Pastoral Theology—The Christian Pastor and the Working Church (Gladden).

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547. V SPECIAL COURSE FOR EVANGELISTIC WORKERS IN NEW ONTARIO, MANITOBA, NORTH-WEST AND BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The Local Superintendent for New Ontario, and the Corresponding Secretary for Manitoba and the North-West and British Columbia are permitted to employ suitable laborers on the new fields being organized into Missions or Stations, the men being in their judgment, after due investigation, competent to do the required work.

After being employed, these men shall be required to pass within the First year an examination in the following subjects:

Wesley's Sermons, I.-LII.

The Catechism of The Methodist Church (1898).

The New Testament, the examination being without introduction or commentary and including the committing to memory of important passages, as in Par. 544, page 351.

The Discipline, Part I., chap. I., chap. II., secs. 1, 2, 3, chap. III.. chap. IV.; Part II., chap. III.; Part IV., and the Constitution of the Sunday School and Epworth League.

After such men have been employed for one or more years under a Missionary Superintendent they may be received on probation by an Annual Conference, but before Ordination they shall pass the usual examination in the five years' course of study (on a Circuit and at College) in which the English Bible may be substituted for Greek under direction of the Theological Faculty; they shall also

present a High School or Public School Departmental certificate, or take a year's course in literary studies in one of our Colleges and pass a satisfactory examination thereon.

These provisions shall be regarded as temporary, and shall be revised, discontinued or otherwise at the General Conference of 1906.

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548. VI. SPECIAL COURSE FOR MEDICAL MISSIONARIES.

A young man proceeding to a degree in medicine with a view to missionary work is permitted to enter our ministry on the same conditions as to probation as a B.A., and to take the same examination for his Preliminary and three-year course of study, substituting Rhetoric, Logic, Psychology and Ethics for Greek Testament, when desired.

549. VII. SPECIAL COURSE FOR NATIVE MISSIONARIES.

Native Japanese, Chinese and Indian Candidates for the Ministry shall pursue such course of study as the Conference Board of Examiners may frame, it being understood that, as far as possible, the work prescribed shall harmonize with the ordinary course of study.

English-speaking Candidates for Indian Mission work in the Manitoba and North-West Conference may take Cree Grammar instead of Greek.

550. VIII. COURSE OF STUDY FOR DEACONESSES.

First Year.

(1) Bible, *Old Testament*—
  1. Old Testament History.
  2. The Pentateuch.
  3. Poetical Books.
  4. Prophetic Books.
(2) Bible, *New Testament*—
  1. Life of Christ.
  2. The Acts of the Apostles.
  3. The Epistles.
(3) Bible Interpretation.
(4) Church History.
(5) Evidences of Christianity.
(6) Christian Doctrines—
  1. Wesley's Sermons.
  2. Discipline and Catechism.
(7) Early Christian Art.
(8) Methods—
  1. In Field Work.
  2. In Industrial Work.
    (*a*) Kitchen Garden.
    (*b*) Cooking Garden.
    (*c*) Sewing.
  3. In Sunday School Work.
  4. In Evangelistic Work.
  5. In Kindergarten Work.
  6. In Conducting Meetings.
    (*a*) Making Analysis.
    (*b*) Preparing Bible Readings.
(9) Elementary Medicine—
  1. Anatomy and Physiology.
  2. General Diseases.
  3. Hygiene.
  4. Emergency Obstetrics and Diseases of Women.
  5. Diseases of Children.
  6. Surgical Emergencies.
  7. Nursing.
  8. The Eye and the Teeth.
(10) Lectures—
  1. On Sociology or Applied Christianity.
  2. On Temperance.
  3. On Mission Fields.
(11) Drill in Physical Culture.

The Board of Management may vary the Course of Study to meet the circumstances of individual students and the possibilities of the Training School when deemed advisable.

Second Year.

The second year's reading shall consist of—

The Life of St. Paul (Stalker).
Makers of Methodism (Withrow).
Women of Methodism (Stevens).
History of Canada (Clement)
New Era (Strong).
Modern Cities and their Problems (Loomis).
Socialism and Christianity (Behrends).

APPENDIX II.

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TO THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH :

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APPENDIX III.

THE BASIS OF UNION.

BETWEEN

THE METHODIST CHURCH OF CANADA, THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CANADA, THE PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHURCH IN CANADA, AND THE BIBLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF CANADA, AS ADOPTED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE CONFERENCES.

I. DOCTRINES, GENERAL RULES, ORDINANCES, ETC.

The Doctrinal Basis of the United Church shall be the Standards of Doctrine and Articles of Religion contained in the Book of Discipline of the Methodist Church of Canada, edition of 1879, from p. 13 to p. 21. That portion of the Book of Discipline of the said Methodist Church of Canada, edition of 1879, from p. 21 to p. 33, referring to General Rules, Ordinances, Reception of Members, and Means of Grace, is also adopted as a part of the Basis.

II. CHURCH GOVERNMENT.

1. *The General Conference.*

1. There shall be a Quadrennial General Conference, composed of an equal number of Ministerial and Lay Delegates, elected as hereinafter provided, with power to

make rules and regulations for the entire Church. (See "Annual Conferences," par. 9.)

2. No change shall be made in the Basis of Union, affecting constitutional questions, or the rights and privileges of Ministry or Laity, excepting by a three-fourths majority of the General Conference, and, if required by either order of Ministry or Laity, a two-thirds majority of each order, voting separately.

3. There shall be one or more Itinerant General Superintendents elected by the General Conference, to hold office for the term of eight years. But if it be decided at the meeting of the General Conference after Union to elect two General Superintendents, one of them shall be elected for four years only, so that there may be a recurring election or re-election every four years.

4. A General Superintendent shall preside over all Sessions of the General Conference, and over all Standing Committees of the same.

2. *Annual Conferences.*

1. The territory occupied by the Church shall be divided into Conferences as the General Conference may from time to time direct.

2. Each Annual Conference shall be composed of all Ministers in full connection within its bounds, and an equal number of Laymen, elected as elsewhere provided. (See "District Meetings," par. 6.)

3. Laymen elected shall have the right to be present at all ordinary Sessions of the Annual Conference, and to speak and vote on all questions, except the examination of Minis-

terial character and qualification; the Reception, by vote, of Probationers into full connection, and their Ordination; and the granting of the Superannuated or Supernumerary relation, on which exceptive questions Ministers alone shall take action. In case any Minister's character shall be arrested, it shall be competent for the ministerial members to meet in Special Session to examine into the case and pronounce judgment, reporting their action to the Mixed Conference,—such report to be for information and record, and not for discussion.

4. Each Annual Conference shall have authority to elect a President from among its ministerial members.

5. The General Superintendent, when present, shall open the Annual Conference, and preside during the first day of its Sessions, and afterward alternately with the President elected by the Conference. In the absence of a General Superintendent, the President of the previous year shall take the Chair and open the Conference. In association with the President, the General Superintendent shall conduct the Ordination Service, and they shall jointly sign the Ordination Parchments. But all other duties pertaining to the presidency of the Annual Conference shall be vested in the President elected by that body, and in the absence of the General Superintendent he shall conduct the Ordination Service.

6. The President of the Annual Conference shall be, *ex officio*, Superintendent of the District in which he may be stationed during the year of his presidency.

7. The Annual Conference shall elect by ballot, without debate, a Secretary or Secretaries as the case may require.

8. The Annual Conference shall elect by ballot, without debate, a Superintendent for each District from among the ordained Ministers within the bounds of such District.

9. Each Annual Conference, at the Session next preceding the Session of each General Conference, shall divide into Ministerial and Lay Electoral Conferences, for the purpose of electing Delegates to the General Conference, each body electing its own Representatives. The Delegates shall be elected from within the bounds of the said Conference, and votes shall be by ballot.

10. Each Annual Conference shall have a Stationing Committee, composed of the President of the Conference (who shall preside in the Committee), the Superintendents of Districts, and one Minister elected by each District Meeting, such election to be by the joint votes of Ministers and Laymen.

11. Each Annual Conference shall have authority to elect into full connection and ordain any Probationer within its bounds who has travelled four years and fulfilled all disciplinary requirements. Also, to elect and ordain Probationers of less than four years' standing, when the necessities of the work require it.

12. All preachers who have received ordination in any of the uniting bodies, and are in good standing at the time of the Union, shall retain all rights and privileges conferred by such ordination.

3. *District Meetings.*

1. The territory occupied by each Annual Conference shall be divided into Districts.

2. Each Annual District Meeting shall consist of all the Ministers and Probationers for the Ministry within its bounds, and one Lay Delegate for each Minister or Probationer in the active work, from each Circuit, Mission, or Station throughout the District; said Delegates to be elected by the Quarterly Official Meetings as hereinafter provided.

3. Each District shall be under the Supervision of a presiding officer, to be called the District Superintendent, who shall be elected by the Annual Conference, as elsewhere provided. He shall preside in the District Meetings, oversee the temporal and spiritual interests of the Church in his District; and, with the Ministers and Probationers under his charge, shall administer and enforce the Discipline of the Church, being responsible therefor to the Annual Conference.

4. The District Superintendent shall fix the time and place of the *first* District Meeting; after which he shall fix the time, and the District Meeting shall fix the place. In the absence of the District Superintendent, the District Meeting shall elect from among its ministerial members, by ballot, without debate, a Chairman *pro tem.*

5. The examination of ministerial character shall be the business of the first day of the District Meeting, and shall be confined to the ministerial members alone.

6. The Lay Members of the District Meeting shall meet separately some time during the Session, and elect by ballot, without debate, Lay Representatives to the Annual Conference, in the proportion of one for each Minister in full connection within the bounds of the District. Laymen, to

be eligible, must be at least twenty-five years of age, and must have been members of the Church in good standing for the five consecutive years next preceding the election.

4. *Quarterly Meetings.*

1. There shall be a Quarterly Official Meeting on each Circuit, Mission, or Station, consisting of the Ministers and Probationers for the Ministry, the Local Preachers, the Exhorters, the Circuit Stewards, the Leaders of Classes, the Superintendents of Sabbath Schools (being members of the Church), one Representative from each Board of Trustees (he being a member of the Church); and also of additional Representatives who may have been appointed by the Societies of the Circuit. The apportionment scale, and mode of election, shall be arranged by the Fourth Quarterly Official Meeting of the year; but such additional Representatives shall not exceed the number of the Stewards on the Circuit.

2. The Superintendent of the Circuit shall be the Chairman of the Quarterly Official Meeting, except when the Superintendent of the District shall be present, in which case the latter may preside.

3. The Quarterly Official Meeting shall hear complaints, and receive and try appeals; recommend Candidates for the Ministry; manage and control Circuit finances; and discharge such other duties as the General Conference may from time to time determine.

4. The Quarterly Official Meeting shall, at the fourth regular meeting of the year, elect by ballot, without debate, the Lay Delegates to attend the ensuing Annual District

Meeting, in the proportion of one Delegate for each Minister or Probationer in the active work on the Circuit.

NOTE.—Regulations concerning the Licensing of Local Preachers and Exhorters are referred to the first General Conference.

III. CHURCH PROPERTY.

1. Upon the ratification of the Union, such legislation shall be obtained from Legislatures having competent jurisdiction, as shall vest in the United Church all property now held by, or in trust for, the respective Churches entering into the Union.

2. As it is probable that in some instances Church and Parsonage property now in use will not be required, after the Union, for Church or Circuit purposes, it is recommended that a Committee, consisting of the District Superintendent, two Ministers, and two Laymen, be appointed at the District Meeting on each District where any such property may be situated, who shall act conjointly with the Trustees on each Circuit in determining what property shall be retained for use, and what shall be sold.

3. In all cases where such Church or Parsonage property may be so sold, the proceeds arising from the sale may be applied,—

a. To the payment of any debts or claims upon or in respect of such property.

b. To the payment of any debts upon the property retained for use by the Congregation formerly using the property so sold, or in building a new church or parsonage where necessary for the United Congregation.

c. The balance, if any, to be applied, with the consent of the Trustees, to the use of the Church and Parsonage Aid Fund of the United Church, in the Annual Conference in which such property is situated.

NOTE.—The regulations contained in Clause 3 and its sub-sections, in so far as they apply to property held by the Bible Christian Church, shall be subject to the regulations adopted in regard to Church funds respecting the debt of the Missionary Fund of said Church.

IV. CHURCH FUNDS.

1. *The Superannuation Fund.*

1. There shall be in the United Church a Superannuated Ministers' Fund for the Western Conferences, and a Supernumerary Ministers' Fund for the three Conferences in the Maritime Provinces, which funds shall, for the present, be under the management of separate Boards, as has been the practice in the Methodist Church of Canada. As no change is deemed necessary in regard to the Supernumerary Fund of the Eastern Conferences, the recommendations which follow, save the final one, are to be understood as referring solely to the Superannuation Fund of the Western Conferences.

2. The Methodist Church of Canada having an invested capital for the three Western Conferences of over $91,000, it is agreed that the other Churches uniting shall supply such an amount of capital to said Superannuation Fund as shall place their Ministers on an equality with the Ministers of the said three Western Conferences.

3. No change shall be made in regard to the claims of

any Minister holding a permanent Superannuated relation at the present time (*i.e.*, 1882); and they shall receive on the basis of their present claims as far as the annual income will allow.

4. Income arising from Annual Collections and Subscriptions in all Congregations of the United Church, Annual Subscriptions by Ministers of the same, and any amount appropriated from time to time out of the funds of the Missionary Society, shall be used in meeting payments to all claimants on the Fund, without distinction.

5. Income arising from the invested capital now held by the Methodist Church of Canada for this Fund, and the amount annually received from the profits of the Toronto Book Room (until such time as the Publishing Interests of the other uniting Churches shall be amalgamated, and their assets equalized with those of said Book Room), shall be used exclusively for the benefit of the claimants on the Superannuation Fund now connected with the Methodist Church of Canada, and the claims of Ministers now in the active work of that Church who may become Superannuated after the Union.

6. The rule adopted above, in Clause 5, shall apply, in the case of the Methodist Episcopal, Primitive Methodist, and Bible Christian Churches, in regard to any Book Room or other assets available for their respective Superannuation Funds, until the amalgamation referred to in said clause is accomplished.

7. So soon as the Methodist Episcopal, Primitive Methodist, or Bible Christian Churches shall furnish an amount of capital equal, in proportion, to that now held by the Methodist Church of Canada, the Superannuated Ministers

of such uniting Churches, and those who may become Superannuates after Union, shall have a claim on the proceeds of the whole invested capital in common with those who are now Ministers of the Methodist Church of Canada.

8. If the income of any year shall not be sufficient to meet the claims in full, then all claimants shall share in the deficiency in proportion to the amount of their claim.

9. If any one of the three uniting Churches aforesaid shall fail to provide its full proportion of invested capital, Ministers of these Churches who are now, or may hereafter become, Superannuates shall draw in proportion to the amount of capital actually provided.

10. In case of failure by any of the Churches above mentioned to provide invested capital, it shall be competent for any Minister of such Churches to provide his individual share of such capital, and thereafter to draw from the proceeds of the investments in the same manner as Superannuates of the present Methodist Church of Canada. This latter provision shall apply to any Minister now on the Superannuated lists of the Methodist Episcopal, Primitive Methodist, or Bible Christian Churches.

11. The principles embodied in the foregoing regulations shall be applied in adjusting the relations to the Supernumerary Ministers' Fund of the three Eastern Conferences, of any Ministers of the Bible Christian Church who may be included by the Union in any of the said Conferences.

NOTE.—A Committee has been appointed, with power to employ an actuary if necessary, to make a careful estimate of the value of existing investments belonging to the Superannuation Funds and report at the first General Conference.

2. *The Missionary Fund.*

1. On the consummation of the Union there shall be one Missionary Fund for the whole Church.

2. The Missionary Society of the Methodist Church of Canada having no debt, and the income and expenditure being equal, no recommendation is necessary.

3. The Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church has a debt of $10,000, incurred in the purchase of property and the erection of churches in Manitoba, the property being held by the Society as security for the debt. This debt is to be liquidated out of the assets of the Society before the consummation of the Union.

4. The Missionary Society of the Bible Christian Church has a debt of $21,080, less about $3,000 on which annuities are paid at 6 per cent. per annum, which annuities will probably cease in a few years. As this debt was incurred in the purchase and erection of mission churches and parsonages, it is considered a legitimate claim against such property. It is therefore agreed that the next Annual Conference of the Bible Christian Church shall make arrangements to distribute the Missionary debt among the several properties, to erect or purchase which said debt has been incurred. And in case any property belonging to the Bible Christian Church be sold, the proceeds, after paying other debts of the Trust, shall be applied to the reduction of the said Missionary debt.

5. The above-mentioned debts being provided for as aforesaid, the Churches included in the Union are to unite on equal terms.

3. *The Contingent Fund.*

As the invested capital of the Contingent Fund of the Methodist Church in Canada belongs to the three Western Conferences of that Church, it is agreed that it be left to the said Conferences to propose a plan for dealing with said investments, and report the same to the General Conference of the Methodist Church of Canada at the Special Session to be held before the Union is consummated. As the other Conferences and Churches have no such invested capital, all further action on the subject is referred to the first General Conference of the United Church.

4. *The Children's Fund.*

As there are no investments in connection with this fund in any of the Uniting Churches, it is agreed that the whole question be relegated to the first General Conference of the United Church to determine on what basis, if any, a Children's Fund shall be maintained.

V. BOOK AND PUBLISHING INTERESTS.

1. The Halifax Book Room and weekly paper shall be continued as at present, on account of their geographical position.

2. The Toronto Book Room, with its various publications, will also be maintained; and no serious difficulty is apprehended in the way of consolidating the other publishing interests in the West at an early date after the Union is effected.

3. As the assets of the Book and Publishing House of the Methodist Church of Canada, for the three Western

Conferences, are larger in proportion to the number of Ministers in those Conferences than the similar assets of any of the other contracting parties, it is agreed that each Minister of the Methodist Episcopal, Primitive Methodist, and Bible Christian Churches, entering into the Union, shall pay into the general Publishing Fund such a sum as will make his interest equal to the *per capita* interests of the Ministers of the three Western Conferences aforesaid.

4. In equalizing the *per capita* interest as above, payments may be made in cash, or by notes payable in one or two years from the date of Union; such notes to bear interest at six per cent. per annum.

VI. EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS.

1. The Methodist Church of Canada and the Methodist Episcopal Church have a number of Educational Institutions in successful operation. The Primitive Methodist and Bible Christian Churches have no such institutions in this country.

2. The Educational Institutions in the Maritime Conferences present no difficulty in the way of Union, and no change is recommended in their present relations.

3. In regard to the Western Conferences, it is believed that those institutions which possess University powers can be consolidated, to the honor of their graduates, and the advantage of their educational work.

4. It is recommended that the United Churches adhere to the traditional policy of Methodism in regard to education, believing that the best interests of the Church and of education imperatively demand that our Colleges and

Universities should be under the fostering care of the Church.

VII. MISCELLANEOUS RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. *Composition of the First General Conference.*

The General Conference of the Methodist Church of Canada, having authorized the calling of a Special Session in 1883 to give effect to the Union, provided a satisfactory basis is secured, it is recommended:

1. That in case the Basis of Union is approved by the requisite majorities in the Quarterly Meetings and Annual Conferences of the Churches proposing to unite, it shall be competent for the Annual Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal, Primitive Methodist, and Bible Christian Churches, to elect Delegates to the first General Conference of the United Church, in the proportion of one out of ten Ministers in full connection, with an equal number of Laymen, elected in Annual Conference or District Meeting, as the case may be; and these, together with the Delegates composing the present General Conference of the Methodist Church of Canada, meeting in Joint Session after the latter body shall have closed the Special Session above alluded to, shall compose the first General Conference of the said United Church, with power to perform such Acts as may be necessary to the final ratification of the Union, and all other Acts which come within the province of a General Conference.

2. The Annual Conferences and District Meetings of the Methodist Church of Canada shall have authority to fill vacancies that may have occurred in their Delegations, either lay or clerical, by the usual mode of election.

2. *Expenses of General Conference.*

If the Basis of Union be approved, it is recommended that the various Annual Conferences make provision for taking up a collection in every congregation for the expenses of the first General Conference.

3. *Transfer of Ministers.*

The Joint Committee recommend to the first General Conference the matter of making provision for the transfer of Ministers from one Conference to another, so as to give all reasonable facilities for meeting the wants of the work.

4. *Time of First General Conference.*

In the event of the Basis of Union being approved, it is recommended that the first General Conference of the United Church be held in the Methodist Episcopal Tabernacle, in the City of Belleville, on the first Wednesday in September, 1883, commencing at nine o'clock in the forenoon.

5. *Name.*

The adoption of a name for the United Church is referred to the first General Conference; but the Committee recommend that it be called "The Methodist Church."

APPENDIX IV.

47 VICTORIA.

CHAP. 106.

AN ACT RESPECTING THE UNION OF CERTAIN METHODIST CHURCHES THEREIN NAMED.

[*Assented to 19th April, 1884.*]

Preamble. WHEREAS the Methodist Church of Canada, the Methodist Episcopal Church in Canada, the Primitive Methodist Church in Canada, and the Bible Christian Church of Canada, have agreed to unite under the name of "The Methodist Church," on the Basis of Union adopted by the said four denominations—which said Basis of Union is set forth in Schedule A of this Act, and the rules, regulations and discipline also adopted by the said four denominations in a General Convention or Conference assembled at the City of Belleville on the fifth day of September, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-three; and whereas the said four denominations have, by petition, set forth that they are desirous of having the said Union ratified, and that they may be incorporated under the name of "The Methodist Church," with power to hold all the property, real and personal, belonging to the said four denominations, upon the trusts and for the purposes hereinafter set out; and whereas it is

expedient to grant the prayer of the said petition: Therefore Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, enacts as follows:—

Certain persons incorporated.

1. The Reverend Samuel Dwight Rice, D.D., President of the General Conference of the Methodist Church of Canada, the Reverend Albert Carman, D.D., Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Canada, the Reverend J. Goodman, President of the Primitive Methodist Church in Canada, the Reverend W. Pascoe, President of the Bible Christian Church of Canada, and the Reverend Alexander Sutherland, D.D., Secretary of the Joint Committee on Union, and all members of the said General Convention or Conference, together with all other persons who now are ministers or members of any one of the said four denominations, or who, under the said Basis of Union, rules, regulations and discipline, are now or may hereafter become members of the said Methodist Church, are hereby constituted and declared to be a body corporate and politic, by the name of "The Methodist Church."

Corporate name.

Objects of Corporation.

2. The objects of the said corporation are as set out in the said Basis of Union, rules, regulations and discipline.

Copies of certain documents to be evidence.

3. All copies of the said Basis of Union, rules, regulations and discipline, or any amendments or alteration thereof published in any book of discipline or journal of conference under the direction or authority of the General Conference of the said Church, or

a copy of any by-law or resolution of the said General Conference, under the seal of the corporation, and signed by the secretary, shall be *primâ facie* evidence in all courts of the contents thereof.

Powers of Corporation as to real or personal estate now held by the four denominations.

4. All the estate, real and personal, belonging to, held in trust for or to the use of the said denominations or any of them, or belonging to or held in trust for or to the use of any corporation under the government or control of any of the said four denominations, shall henceforth he held and vested in the said corporation and shall be used and administered for the benefit of the said Methodist Church.

Certain property vested in the corporation in trust.

5. All the property, real and personal, under the jurdisdiction of the Parliament of Canada, held in trust for or to the use of any congregation, congregations, circuit, station or mission, of any of the said four denominations, is hereby vested in the said Church, and shall be held for the use of such congregation or congregations, circuit, station or mission in connection with the said Methodist Church upon the trusts and subject to the provisions set forth in Schedule B of this Act; and all lands and premises acquired by or for the said corporation for a church, chapel, meeting house, parsonage, school building or burial ground in connection with any congregation or congregations, circuit, station or mission, shall be held, used and administered upon the said trusts, and the respective trustees thereof shall hold, use and administer the same in trust for the said corporation upon the trusts set forth in the said schedule.

Effect of Schedule B, as to interpretation of certain documents.

6. In any deed or conveyance to said trustees the form of words contained in column one of the said Schedule B and distinguished by any number therein, shall be taken to be equivalent to the form of words contained in column two of the said Schedule B and distinguished by the said number.

Appointment or removal of officers and servants, and making or altering by-laws, &c.

7. Subject to the provisions of the said Basis of Union, the said corporation may, from time to time, appoint and, as they see occasion, remove all officers, agents and servants, and from time to time, make, alter or vary any by-laws, rules or regulations touching and concerning the time and place of holding meetings and notices thereof, and for the good ordering, discipline and government of the said Church, and the performance of divine worship in any of the churches of the said corporation, and all matters respecting the same, and all other matters and things which to them seem good, fit and useful for the well ordering, governing and advancement of the said Church.

Boards and Committees for certain purposes.

8. The said corporation may appoint boards or committees composed of the members thereof, to take charge of or deal with and dispose of the respective funds, including book and publishing interests and other interests, belonging to the said Church, as set out in their Basis of Union and in accordance therewith, and may establish such other funds as may be deemed expedient, and may appoint boards or committees of the members of the said corporation to take charge of, deal with and dispose of the said funds so formed, in accordance with the provisions of the said Basis of Union.

Gifts of real estate for the use of the corporation.

9. Subject to the provisions in section five hereinbefore contained, the said corporation may receive voluntary conveyances of, and may purchase, hold and convey such real estate as the purposes of the said corporation require: Provided that the corporation shall, within ten years after its acquisition of any such real estate, sell or otherwise dispose of and alienate so much of such real estate as is not required for the use and occupation or other like purposes of the corporation.

Proviso: for alienation of realty not occupied.

Real and personal estate may be acquired by devise.

10. Subject to the provisions in the said section five hereinbefore contained, the said corporation shall be capable of taking, holding and receiving any real or personal estate by virtue of any devise contained in any last will and testament of any person whatever: Provided always that such devise of real estate shall be subject to the laws respecting devises of real estate to religious corporations in force at the time of such devise, in the Province in which such real estate is situated, so far as the same apply to the said corporation.

Proviso: to be subject to certain rules of law.

As to disposal of such estate.

11. The said corporation shall have authority to alienate, exchange, demise, let or lease for any term of years such messuages, lands, tenements, hereditaments and immovable property as shall be given, granted, purchased, appropriated, devised or bequeathed to the said corporation for all or any of the purposes thereof, subject to the proviso in section nine contained.

Application of funds of corporation.

12. The said corporation shall have power to make advances, by way of loan or gift, out of its funds not required to meet ordinary expenses and disbursements, to assist in the erection or maintenance of colleges, schools, or parsonages, as the General Conference or committee having charge of the fund may direct; and may take or hold any real or personal estate or securities thereon, mortgaged or assigned to the said corporation to secure payment of such loan, or to secure payment of any debts or demands due to the said corporation, and may proceed on such mortgages, assignments or other securities for the recovery of the money thereby secured either at law or in equity or otherwise: and generally may pursue the same course, exercise the same powers, and take and use the same remedies to enforce the payment of any debt or demand due to the said corporation as any individual or body corporate may, by law, take or use for like purpose.

Security to be taken for debts, &c.

General powers.

Investment of funds of corporation, and on what securities.

13. The said corporation may, for the purpose of investment, lend money upon the security of real estate, purchase debentures of municipal or public school corporations, or Dominion or Provincial stock or securities, may sell any such securities as to it may seem advisable, and for that purpose may execute such assignments or other instruments as are necessary for carrying the same into effect; and for such purposes of investment, may make advances to any person or persons or body corporate upon any of the above mentioned securities at such rate of interest, not exceeding eight per cent. per annum, as is agreed upon: Provided,

Interest.

Proviso. however, that nothing in this Act contained shall be construed to limit the power of such corporation to make such investments of its capital or surplus income which it otherwise has by virtue of its corporate existence.

Borrowing powers of corporation. **14.** The said corporation shall have power to borrow any sum or sums of money from banks or other corporations, or from private persons, as in the opinion of the General Conference or the board or committee having charge of any of the funds of the said corporation, may be required for the purposes thereof, and may, under the direction of the said General Conference or committee having charge of such fund, hypothecate, mortgage or pledge so much of the real or personal property held in trust for such fund as is necessary to secure any sum or sums of money so borrowed.

Provision as to trusts. **15.** The real and personal property which may become vested in the said corporation, and which heretofore has been held by or in trust for any one of the said churches or denominations upon any special trust for missionary or other purposes, shall, subject to the provisions of the Basis of Union, until otherwise directed by the General Conference, on the advice of the board or committee having charge of the fund, be held upon similar trusts and for similar purposes.

Duplicate seal for each conference; custody and use thereof. **16.** The said corporation may provide a duplicate of the seal thereof for each of the annual conferences from time to time existing, and the custody of the said seal shall be as may be directed

by the said corporation, and the same may be affixed by such officers as the said General Conference by by-law or resolution directs; and until direction by the said General Conference, the same may be affixed to any conveyance of property within the bounds of any of the said annual conferences by the president or secretary of such annual conference, and may, for the purpose of conveying any property in charge of any board or committee of the said corporation, be affixed by the chairman of the said board or committee, or such other officer as the board or committee directs.

Certain resolutions to have force of by-laws.

17. All resolutions passed by the General Conference of the said corporation shall have the force and effect of by-laws, and no formal by-law shall be required for the purpose of managing the affairs of the said corporation.

As to debts secured on property transferred to the corporation.

18. The said corporation in receiving, taking or holding any property heretofore held by any of the said four denominations, shall not in anywise become responsible or liable for the debts or obligations which have been contracted in respect thereto, but the property specially charged with the said debts, and persons who have become liable in respect to the said debts or obligation, shall remain liable in the same manner and to the same degree as if the said union had not been effected, or this Act had not been passed, save in so far as the said corporation, by the Basis of Union, has undertaken the payment of any such debts or obligations.

Basis of Union adopted at Belleville confirmed and declared binding.

19. The said Basis of Union adopted by the said four denominations, and the rules, regulations and discipline also adopted by the said four denominations in the said General Conference or Convention held at the said City of Belleville, are hereby declared to be binding on the said corporation and all the members thereof, until the same shall have been altered or varied in accordance with the provisions therein contained, and the officers and boards of management appointed by the said General Conference or Convention are hereby declared invested with the powers sought or declared to be conferred upon them by the said Convention or Conference.

Certain rights saved.

20. Nothing in this Act contained shall prejudice or affect any existing right or interest in the superannuation fund of any of the said four denominations, or any cause of action in respect thereof.

Commencement of Act.

21. This Act shall come into force on the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-four; nevertheless, the annual conferences of any of the said four denominations which have not met before the said date, may meet during the said month of June to complete the business of the year.

Repeal of inconsistent enactments.

22. All Acts and portions of Acts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, in so far as may be necessary to give full effect to this Act.

SCHEDULE B.

(Referred to in Section 5 above.)

1. Upon trust to build a church and other buildings.

1. Upon trust that they, the said trustees and their successors, or the trustee or trustees for the time being, acting in the trusts herein, shall and do, with and out of the moneys now or which may hereafter be possessed by them or him for that purpose, and as soon as conveniently may be, erect and build upon the land held in trust, or some part thereof, and from time to time and at all times hereafter, whenever it shall be necessary for the due accomplishment of the trusts or any of them, repair, alter, enlarge and rebuild a church or place of religious worship, and a dwelling house or dwelling houses, vestry room or vestry rooms, school room or school rooms and other offices, conveniences and appurtenances, or with or without any of them respectively, as the trustees for the time being shall, from time to time, deem necessary or expedient.

2. To permit buildings to be used as a church by the Methodist Church.

2. And upon further trust, from time to time and at all times after the erection thereof, to permit and suffer the said church or place of religious worship, with the appurtenances, to be used, occupied and enjoyed as and for a place of religious worship by a congregation of the Methodist Church, and for public and other meetings and services of a religious or spiritual character, held according to the rules, discipline and general usages of the said church, and do and shall, from time to time, and at all times hereafter, permit and suffer such person or persons as are hereinafter mentioned or designated, and such person or persons only, to preach and expound God's Holy Word, and to perform the usual acts of religious worship therein and burial service in the burying ground thereto belonging; that is to say, such person and persons as shall be, from time to time, approved and for that purpose duly appointed thereto in accordance with the rules and discipline of the said Methodist Church, and no other person or persons whomsoever.

3. To permit dwelling house on said premises to be used by the minister in charge.

3. And upon further trusts, from time to time and at all times hereafter, to permit and suffer such minister or ministers of the aforesaid Methodist Church to reside in, use, occupy and enjoy, free from the payment of any rent for the same, the dwelling house or dwelling houses, with the appurtenances (if any there be) erected thereon for that purpose, during such time

and times as the said minister or ministers shall and may be duly authorized so to do, by his or their being appointed in accordance with the rules and discipline of the said Methodist Church to the circuit or station in which the same may be situated, without the let, suit, hindrance, or denial of the said trustees, or of any person or persons on their or any of their behalf; and it is hereby declared that the times and manner of the various services and ordinances of religious worship to be observed and performed in the said place of religious worship, shall be regulated according to the rules and discipline and general usage of the Methodist Church, and that the officiating minister for the time being, whether appointed by the said conference, or permitted or appointed by the said superintendent minister for the time being, or otherwise permitted or appointed, as in these presents is mentioned, shall have the direction and conducting of the same worship, in conformity, nevertheless, to the said rules and discipline and general usage of the said Methodist Church: Provided always, that no person or persons whomsoever shall at any time hereafter be permitted to preach or expound God's Holy Word, or to perform any of the usual acts of religious worship, upon the said parcel or tract of land and hereditaments, or in the said church or place of religious worship and premises, or any of them, or any part or parts thereof, or in or upon the appurtenances thereto belonging, or any of them, or any part or parts thereof, who shall maintain, promulgate or teach any doctrine or practice contrary to what is contained in certain notes on the New Testament, commonly reputed to be the notes of John Wesley, and in the first four volumes of sermons commonly reputed to be written and published by him.

4. To permit Sunday schools to be carried on in said church.

4. And upon further trust, in case a school room or school rooms shall be erected or provided upon the said parcel or tract of land, or any part thereof, as aforesaid, or if there shall be no separate school room or school rooms, and it shall, by the said trustees, or the major part thereof, be thought necessary or expedient to hold and teach a Sunday school in any proper part of the said church or place of religious worship, then to permit and suffer a Sunday school to be held, conducted and carried on from time to time in said school room or school rooms, or if it shall be thought necessary or expedient, as aforesaid, in the said church or place of religious worship, as aforesaid, but if in the said church or place of religious worship, then only at such hours and times as shall not interfere with the public worship of Almighty God therein, and in all cases, whether in said church or place of religious worship or not, under such government orders and regulations as the General Conference of the said Method-

ist Church have directed or appointed, or shall hereafter, from time to time, direct or appoint, and also subject always to the proviso hereinbefore contained respecting doctrines.

5. To take down and remove buildings and to rebuild.

5. Provided always, that it shall be lawful for the said trustees, or the major part of them, when and so often as they shall deem the same necessary or expedient, to take down and remove the said church, vestry room or vestry rooms, school room or school rooms, dwelling house or dwelling houses, offices, conveniences or appurtenances to the said church or place of religious worship, or premises belonging or appertaining, or all or any of them, or any part or parts thereof, respectively, for the purpose of rebuilding the said church or place of religious worship, or for the purpose of rebuilding any other vestry room or vestry rooms, school room or school rooms, dwelling house or dwelling houses, offices, or conveniences or appurtenances, or enlarging or altering the same respectively, or all or any of them, so as to render the premises better adapted to and for the due accomplishment of the trusts, intents and purposes of these presents.

6. To mortgage.

6. It is hereby declared that from time to time and at all times hereafter it shall and may be lawful to and for the said trustees, or the major part of them, to mortgage, and for that purpose to appoint, convey and assure, in fee or for any term or terms of years, the said parcel or tract of land, church or place of religious worship, hereditaments and premises, or any part or parts thereof respectively, to any person or persons whomsoever for securing such sum or sums of money as may be requisite or necessary in or for the due execution and accomplishment of the trusts and purposes of these presents or any of them, according to the true intent and meaning thereof; but it is hereby declared that it shall not be incumbent upon any mortgagee or mortgagees, or upon any intended mortgagee or mortgagees of the said trust premises or any part or parts thereof, to inquire into the necessity, expediency or propriety of any mortgage or mortgages which shall be made or proposed to be made under or by virtue of these presents, nor shall anything in these presents contained, or which may be contained in any such mortgage or mortgages, extend or be construed to extend, (unless where the contrary shall, with the full knowledge and consent of the said trustees, or the major part of them, be therein actually expressed), to hinder, prevent or make unlawful the taking down, removing, enlarging or altering the said buildings and premises or any of them respectively, as in these presents before men-

tioned and provided for in that behalf, nor in any manner to hinder, prevent or interfere with the due execution of the trusts or purposes of these presents or any of them, so long as such mortgagee or mortgagees, his, her or their heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, shall not be in the actual possession, as such mortgagee or mortgagees, of the hereditaments comprised or to be comprised in such mortgage or mortgages, anything in these presents contained to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding.

7. To let pews and sittings and dwelling houses and to sell graves and tombs.

7. And upon further trust, from time to time, and at all times hereafter, to let the pews and seats in the said church or place of religious worship at a reasonable rent or reasonable rents (reserving as many free seats where and as may be thought necessary or expedient), and if there shall be any such dwelling house or dwelling houses, school room or school rooms, or other building or buildings, or any of them, erected and built as aforesaid, then to let the same or any of them (other than such as shall or may have been erected and built for or appropriated to the use and occupancy of the minister or ministers duly appointed to the circuit or station in which the same shall be situated), at a reasonable rent or reasonable rents, and also, if there shall be a cemetery or burial ground, to let vaults or tombs at a reasonable rent or reasonable rents, or to sell graves and tombs at a reasonable price or reasonable prices, and to collect, get in and receive the rents, profits and income to arise in any manner from the said premises (excepting moneys which shall, from time to time, arise from collections or subscriptions duly made therein according to the rules and discipline and general usage of the said Methodist Church, for other purposes than the immediate purpose of the said trust estate) as, and when, the same shall, from time to time, become due and payable, but not (excepting as to moneys from time to time received from graves and tombs) by way of anticipation, further than for the quarter or half-year or year, as may be thought most expedient: Provided always, that when and so often as such dwelling house or dwelling houses as may have been erected for the express use of the minister or ministers of the circuit or station shall not be required for the use of such minister or ministers, it shall and may be lawful for the said trustees, by and with the advice and consent of the superintendent minister of the circuit or station, to let the same and appropriate the rent derived therefrom towards paying and satisfying the board and lodging of such minister or ministers, or towards paying the rent for a more suitable and convenient residence or residences for such minister or ministers.

8. Trustees to hold moneys arising therefrom upon trust, to pay taxes, insurance, and for repairs, also interest and expenses incurred in the execution of the trusts hereof.

8. And it is hereby declared that the said trustees and trustee for the time being shall stand and be possessed of the money arising from the said rents, profits and income (except as aforesaid), upon trust, thereout to pay, in the first place such duties, taxes, rates and other outgoings (if any) as, from time to time, shall be lawfully payable in respect of the said premises or any part or parts thereof, and also the costs, charges and expenses of insuring and keeping insured the said trust premises against loss or damages by fire, in such sum or sums as the said trustees or the major part of them shall, from time to time, think proper or expedient, and in repairing and keeping the said trust premises in good repair and condition; and likewise the interest of all principal moneys borrowed and then due and owing on security of the said trust premises or of any part or parts thereof, by virtue of the trusts hereof, and then to retain to and reimburse themselves respectively all costs, charges and expenses lawfully incurred and paid by them in or about the due execution of the trusts hereof or any of them, and in the next place thereout to pay and discharge the necessary costs, charges and expenses, from time to time incurred in cleansing, warming, lighting and attending to the said church or place of religious worship and premises, and generally to liquidate any debts, costs, charges and incumbrances and expenses at any time lawfully incurred under or occasioned by the due execution of the trusts hereof or any of them, and not included in any of the provisions aforesaid.

9. To apply surplus towards payment of ministers in charge, assisting funds of other churches, building new church, or subscribing to charities.

9. And upon further trust, from time to time, to pay and apply any surplus money remaining after the due payment of all such lawful debts, costs, charges, incumbrances and expenses as aforesaid (but according and in conformity to the rules and discipline of the said Methodist Church), for or towards the support of the minister or ministers, for the time being, respectively appointed by the said Conference or otherwise as aforesaid, either on the circuit on which the said chapel or place of religious worship shall, for the time being, be situated, or on that and some other circuit or circuits, or in some other circuit or circuits only, or for or towards the purpose of assisting or increasing the funds of any other church or place of religious worship, or churches or places of religious worship, appropriated to the use of the said Methodist Church, or in building any new church or place of religious worship, or churches or places of religious worship, for the use of the said Methodist Church, and which shall be settled upon

trusts, ends, intents and purposes similar hereto; or in subscribing or giving to any of the general funds, objects or charities of the said Methodist Church; or for or towards all or any of the purposes, objects, funds or charities hereinbefore mentioned, in such manner as the said trustees, or the major part of them, shall, from time to time, think necessary or expedient; and it is hereby declared that it shall be lawful for the said trustees, or the major part of them (although there shall not then be any such surplus money as aforesaid), from time to time, to subscribe or give such sum or sums of money as they shall think necessary or expedient, and which may be conveniently spared from the funds of the said church or place of religious worship, for or towards all or any of the purposes, objects, funds or charities aforesaid.

10. To appoint and remove stewards and treasurers.

10. And it is hereby declared that it shall be lawful for the said trustees, or the major part of them, at any meeting to be convened and held, as hereinafter mentioned, from time to time, and at all times hereafter at their discretion, to appoint any person or persons, of decent and sober conduct and good reputation, to be a steward or stewards of the said church or place of religious worship, and at their will and pleasure to remove and dismiss such steward or stewards, or any of them; and the duty of the steward or stewards of the said church or place of religious worship shall be to see and attend to the orderly conducting of the secular business and affairs of the said church or place of religious worship, under the direction and superintendence of the said trustees, or the major part of them; and also in like manner to appoint any proper person or persons to be a treasurer or treasurers of the funds of the said church or place of religious worship and premises, and at their will and pleasure to remove and dismiss such treasurer or treasurers, or any of them.

11. To keep books of account and submit the same for audit.

11. And it is hereby declared that the said trustees shall themselves, or by their steward or stewards, treasurer or treasurers, keep a book or books of account in which, from time to time, shall be plainly, legibly and regularly extended an account of every receipt and disbursement by them, him or any of them received or made, and also of all debts and credits due to and owing from or in respect of the said trust premises or any part or parts thereof, and also of all other documents, articles, matters and things necessary for the due and full explanation and understanding of the same book or books of account, and shall also in like manner keep a book or books of minutes in which, from time to time, shall be plainly, legibly and regularly entered minutes of all trustee meetings from time to time held under or by

virtue of these presents and of the resolutions passed, and of all proceedings, acts and business had, taken and done thereat, and also of all documents, matters and things necessary for the due and full explanation and understanding of the same minutes, and all other things done in and about the execution of the trusts hereof; and shall and will from time to time, and at all seasonable times hereafter, upon the request of the superintendent minister, for the time being, of the circuit in which the said church or place of religious worship shall, for the time being, be situated, produce and show forth to him and to every person whom he shall desire to see the same, all and every such book or books of accounts and minutes, documents, articles, matters and things, and permit and suffer copies or abstracts of or extracts from them or any of them to be made and taken by the said superintendent minister or any person or persons whom he shall, from time to time, desire to make and take the same; and the said book and books of accounts and minutes, and all documents, articles, matters and things relating in any wise to the said trust premises, shall at least once in the year, and oftener, if the said superintendent shall at any time desire and shall give notice thereof in manner hereinafter mentioned, be regularly, upon a day to be appointed by the said superintendent for the time being, or with his concurrence, examined and audited by the superintendent and the circuit steward or circuit stewards, if more than one, for the time being, of the circuit in which the said church or place of religious worship shall, for the time being, be situate, at a meeting convened for that purpose; and of every such meeting fourteen days' notice in writing, specifying the time, place and purpose of such meeting, shall and may be given under the direction of the said superintendent for the time being, by any one or more of them, the said trustee or trustees for the time being, to each and every the other and others of them, the said trustees or trustee, circuit stewards and circuit steward, for the time being, and either personally served upon him and them respectively, or left for or sent by the post to him and them at his and their most usual place and places of abode or business; and in order to facilitate the auditing of the said accounts, minutes, documents, articles, matters and things, it shall be lawful for the said superintendent, circuit steward and circuit stewards for the time being as aforesaid, or either or any of them, to appoint in writing a deputy or deputies to act therein for them and him respectively, as aforesaid, and for that purpose any one or more of them may be the deputy or deputies of the other or others of them the said superintendent, circuit steward and circuit stewards; and it is hereby declared that the signatures of all of them the said auditors, deputies and deputy, or of the aggregate majority of them, written in the said book and books of accounts and minutes, respectively, shall be sufficient evi-

dence that all the matters and things relating to the said trust premises, which were up to that time included in the said books, accounts, minutes and documents, matters and things, were duly examined, audited and approved of, unless and except so far as the contrary shall be therein, by them or by the aggregate majority of them, in writing expressed.

12. And it is hereby declared that seven days' notice of a special meeting and convenient notice of other meetings of trustees shall be given.

12. And it is hereby declared that every meeting for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of making any alteration of or any addition to or mortgage or sale of the said church or place of religious worship and premises, or any part or parts thereof, or for contracting any debt upon, for or on account thereof (other than for the ordinary current expenses thereof), or for letting any such house or houses, school room or school rooms, as aforesaid, or for fixing the rents or prices, or making or altering rules to ascertain the rents or prices of such graves, tombs, pews and seats as aforesaid; or for appropriating the funds or any part of the funds of the said church or place of religious worship (otherwise than for the due payment of the ordinary current expenses thereof), or for bringing or defending any action or actions, suit or suits, respecting the said trust estates and premises or any parts thereof, or any matter relating thereto, or for any one or more of the above purposes, shall be and shall be deemed and taken to be a special meeting; and of every such meeting seven days' notice in writing, specifying the time, place and purpose or purposes of such meeting, and signed by at least either two of the said trustees or by the superintendent minister for the time being, shall be given to the other and others of them and him the said trustees and superintendent minister (unless where he is himself the person giving such notice), and either personally served upon him and them, or left for, or sent by the post to him and them respectively, at his and their most usual place or places of abode or business; and for the purpose of transacting their ordinary business relating to the said church or place of religious worship and premises, or for any other purpose relating to these presents or trusts thereof (except where seven days' notice is expressed or required as hereinbefore mentioned), a meeting of the said trustees may be held with the said superintendent for the time being, as aforesaid, so soon as the same can be conveniently convened by notice in writing, specifying the time and place of such meeting, given and signed by at least either two of the said trustees or by the said superintendent for the time being, and either personally served upon or left for, or sent by the post as aforesaid, to the other and others of them respectively at his and their most usual place or places of abode or

business: Provided always, and it is hereby declared, that no meeting held under or by virtue of these presents shall be invalid, or the resolutions thereof void or impeached, by reason that any such notice or notices, as aforesaid, may not or shall not have reached any said trustee or trustees who, at the time of any such meeting, happens to be out of the Province in which the lands and premises held in trust are situated, or who or whose place or places of abode or business shall not be known to, and can not reasonably be found or discovered by, the person or persons who is or are respectively, as aforesaid, authorized to give any such notice or notices as aforesaid.

13. That a majority of the trustees shall rule, and that in case of a tie, the chairman shall give a casting vote.

13. And it is hereby declared that at any meeting held under or by virtue of the trusts hereof, or any of them, the votes of the persons present and entitled to vote, or the votes of a majority of them, shall decide any question or matter proposed at such meeting and respecting which such votes shall be given; and in case the votes shall be equally divided, then the chairman of such meeting shall give the casting vote. And it is hereby declared, that whenever it shall be thought necessary or expedient to do anything in and by these presents directed, authorized or made lawful to be done, the necessity or expediency of doing the same shall, in like manner, be decided by the persons present and entitled to vote upon the question to be determined, or by the majority of them, and if there shall be an even division, then by such casting vote as aforesaid; and all acts and deeds done and executed in pursuance of any such decision as aforesaid, at any such meeting as aforesaid, shall be good, valid and binding on all persons entitled to vote at the meeting, who may be absent, or being present, may be in the minority, and on all other persons claiming under or in pursuance of these presents; but no person (unless where the contrary is hereinbefore expressly mentioned) shall be allowed to vote in more than one capacity at the same time or on the same question, although holding more than one office at the same time in the said church, or in the same meeting.

14. That the rules, discipline, doctrines and usages of the Church shall be in force subject to the proviso respectifig doctrines herein contained.

14. And it is hereby declared that the "rules and discipline and general usage" of the said Methodist Church in these presents mentioned or referred to, are the rules and discipline of the said Church, as printed and published by authority of the said Conference, in a book entitled "Doctrines and Discipline of the Methodist Church," and the general usage and practice of the societies belonging to said Church, and such rules and regulations as may, from time to

time, be made or adopted by the said General Conference, and printed and published in their journals, in accordance with the provisions contained in said book of discipline, but subject at all times to the proviso respecting doctrines in these presents contained.

15. That the superintendent minister or his deputy shall be chairman of meetings of trustees, but in case of absence, trustees may appoint chairman.

15. Provided always, and it is hereby declared, that excepting where the contrary is in these presents expressly declared or provided for, the superintendent minister, for the time being, of the circuit or station in which the said church or place of religious worship shall, for the time being, be situated, or his deputy thereunto from time to time by him nominated and appointed in writing, under his hand, shall be the chairman of, and shall preside at, and shall have a casting vote as such superintendent minister, for and in all meetings held under or by virtue of these presents; but in case the said superintendent minister for the time being, or his deputy to be so appointed as aforesaid, shall, at any time, neglect to attend at any such meeting as aforesaid, or if the superintendent minister, or his deputy appointed as aforesaid, shall attend but shall refuse to act as such, the chairman, at any such meeting as aforesaid, or if the said superintendent minister shall not attend at any such meeting, and shall neglect to appoint a deputy as aforesaid, then and in every and any of the said cases, it shall be lawful for the persons for the time being composing such meeting and entitled to vote thereat, or for a majority of them, to elect and choose from among themselves a chairman to preside for the time being at any such meeting as aforesaid; and every meeting so held upon any such neglect or refusal of the said superintendent minister, or his deputy as aforesaid, shall be as valid and effectual as if the said superintendent, or his deputy as aforesaid, had been the chairman thereof and had presided thereat.

16. Proviso for sale of land with consent of Conference.

16. Provided always, and it is hereby declared, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the said trustees, or a majority of them, with the consent of the said annual conference (such consent to be testified in writing under the hand of the president or secretary for the time being of the said conference), either by joining in the deed of conveyance for the purpose of expressing such consent or by separate document, at any time or times hereafter, absolutely to sell and dispose of the said parcel or tract of land, church or place of religious worship, hereditaments and premises, or of such part or parts of the same, respecting which such consent in writing as aforesaid shall be given, either by public sale or private contract, and together or in parcels and either at one and the same time or at

different times and prices, for the best price or prices, in money, that can be reasonably obtained for the same, and well and effectually to convey and assure the hereditaments and premises so sold to the purchaser or purchasers thereof, his, her or their heirs and assigns, or as he, she or they shall direct or appoint; and the hereditaments and premises so sold and conveyed and assured as aforesaid shall thenceforth be held and enjoyed by the purchaser or purchasers thereof, his, her and their heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, freed and absolutely discharged from these presents, and from the trusts hereby declared and every of them; and the said trustees or trustee for the time being shall apply the money which shall arise from every such sale as aforesaid, so far as the same will extend, to the discharge of all the incumbrances, liabilities and responsibilities, whether personal or otherwise, lawfully contracted or occasioned by virtue of these presents, or in the due execution of the trusts hereof, or of any of them, and subject thereto, and to the payment of any debts upon any other church property on the said circuit, or for building new churches, or for the purpose of procuring a larger and more conveniently or eligibly situated parcel or tract of land and church or place of religious worship and parsonage premises, in the place and stead of the said parcel or tract of land and church or place of religious worship or parsonage and hereditaments and premises so sold or disposed of; and the balance, if any, to be applied to the use of the church and parsonage aid fund of the said Methodist Church and the said annual conference: Provided, however, that if any such church or property so sold belonged to the Bible Christian Church prior to the union of the said Church with the other Methodist Churches, the surplus, after payment of debts, shall be applied to the reduction of the missionary debts, as provided in the Basis of Union.

17. Proviso for sale in case trust premises shall be inadequate to meet and discharge interest and expenses.

17. Provided always, that if at any time hereafter the income arising from the said parcel or tract of land, church or place of religious worship, hereditaments and premises, shall be inadequate to meet and discharge the interest of all moneys borrowed and then due and owing upon or on account of the said trust premises, and the various current expenses attending the due execution of the trusts hereof, and if the said trustees, for the time being, of these presents, shall desire to retire and be discharged from the burden and execution of the said trusts, and if no such persons as are hereinafter mentioned or described can be found to take upon themselves the burden and execution of the said trusts, with the responsibility and liability to be thereby incurred, then in that case it shall be lawful for the said trustees, for the time being, as aforesaid, or the major part of them, of their own proper authority,

and without any such consent by the said annual conference as aforesaid, to sell and dispose of the said parcel or tract of land, church or place of religious worship, hereditaments and premises, or any part or parts of the same, respectively, either by public sale or private contract, and either together or in parcels, and either at one and the same time or at different times, for the best price or prices in money that can be reasonably obtained for the same; and well and effectually to convey and assure the hereditaments and premises so sold, with the appurtenances, to the purchaser or purchasers thereof, his, her or their heirs and assigns, or as he, she or they shall direct or appoint: and the hereditaments and premises so sold and conveyed and assured, as last aforesaid, shall thenceforth be held and enjoyed by the purchaser and purchasers thereof, his, her and their heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, freed and absolutely discharged from these presents and the trusts hereby declared, and every of them; and all the moneys arising from every such last-mentioned sale shall be applied, disposed of and appropriated, as far as the same money will extend, to the purposes and in the manner hereinbefore directed in respect to any sale made in pursuance or in consequence of such consent of or by the said annual conference, as aforesaid: but it is hereby declared that no sale shall be made by virtue of this present power or authority, unless the said trustees for the time being as aforesaid, or a majority of them, shall give notice in writing to the said annual conference, or to the president for the time being of the said annual conference, on or before the first day of the then next annual meeting of the said annual conference, of their intention to make such sale, and the reasons for the same, nor unless the said annual conference shall, for the space of six calendar months next after the said first day of their said annual meeting, refuse or neglect either to give, grant or provide the said trustees or trustee for the time being with such pecuniary or other aid, assistance and relief as shall enable them and him to bear and continue the burden of the execution of the trusts of these presents, or (as the case may be) to find and provide other trustees who will take upon themselves the burden of the execution of the said trusts.

18. And it is hereby declared that, except in case of mortgage or sale, the receipt of a majority of the trustees or of trustee, steward or treasurer duly authorized, shall be sufficient.

18. And it is hereby declared that the receipt and receipts of a majority of the said trustees for the time being shall, in all cases of payment made to them, or any of them as such trustees or trustee as aforesaid, be a full discharge to the person or persons entitled to such receipt or receipts, his, her and their heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, for all mortgage moneys, purchase moneys, or other moneys therein, respectively, expressed and acknowledged to have been received by any such trustees or trustee, as

aforesaid; and in all cases, except for money paid and received in respect of any mortgage or sale of the said hereditaments and premises, or any part or parts thereof, as aforesaid, the receipt and receipts of any one or more of the said trustees for the time being, or any one or more of the stewards or treasurers for the time being, by the said trustees for the time being, or the major part of them, duly authorized to sign and give receipts, shall be a full discharge to the person and persons entitled to such receipt or receipts, his, her and their heirs, executors and administrators, for all moneys (except as aforesaid) therein respectively expressed and acknowledged to have been received by any such trustee, steward or treasurer, as aforesaid.

19. That purchaser or mortgagee shall not be bound to inquire as to the necessity of sale or mortgage.

19. And it is hereby declared that it shall not be incumbent upon any mortgagee or mortgagees, purchaser or purchasers of the said parcel or tract of land, church or place of religious worship, hereditaments and premises, or of any part or parts thereof, respectively, to inquire into the necessity, expediency or propriety of any mortgage, sale or disposition of the said parcel or tract of land, church or place of religious worship, hereditaments and premises, or of any part or parts thereof made or proposed to be made by the said trustees or trustee for the time being, or the major part of them, as aforesaid, or whether any such notice or notices, as aforesaid, was or were duly given, or was or were valid or sufficient, or whether any steward or stewards, treasurer or treasurers, was or were duly authorized to sign and give receipts as aforesaid; nor shall it be incumbent upon any such mortgagee or mortgagees, purchaser or purchasers, or any of them, or for any other person or persons, his, her or their heirs, executors, administrators or assigns, paying money to such trustees or trustee, or to their steward or stewards, treasurer or treasurers, for the time being, as aforesaid, to see to the application, or to be answerable or accountable for the loss, mis-application or non-application of such purchase or other money, or any part thereof, for which a receipt or receipts shall be so respectively given, as aforesaid.

20. That trustees shall not be accountable for involuntary loss.

20. And it is hereby declared that the said trustees or trustee for the time being shall not, nor shall any of them, their or any of their heirs, executors or administrators, or any of them, be chargeable or accountable for any involuntary loss suffered by him, them or any of them, nor any one or more of them, or any other or others of them, nor for more money than shall come to their respective hands, nor for injury done by others to the said trust premises, or to any part or parts thereof.

21. That number of trustees shall not be less than five nor more than twenty-one, and that vacancies are to be filled and number increased by nomination and appointment.

21. And it is hereby declared to be the true intent and meaning of this indenture and of the parties thereto, that the full number of the trustees of the said trust shall not be less than five (5) nor more than twenty-one (21), and that when and so often as any one or more of the said trustees or of their successors in the said trust shall die, resign office as trustee, by and with the consent of a two-thirds vote of the co-trustees, or withdraw from or cease to be a member or members of the said Methodist Church, according to the rules and discipline of the said Church, or shall remove to such distance as shall in the opinion of his co-trustees, expressed by a two-thirds vote of said co-trustees, render it inexpedient for him to remain in said trust, the place of the trustee or trustees so dying, resigning, withdrawing, ceasing to be a member or members of the said Church, or removing as aforesaid, shall thereupon become vacant, subject, however, to the provisos next hereinafter set out, and shall be filled with a successor or successors, being a member or members of the said Church, of the full age of twenty-one years, to be nominated and appointed as follows, that is to say,—to be nominated by the Methodist Church minister having charge, for the time being, of the circuit or station in which the said hereby conveyed premises shall be situate, and thereupon appointed by the surviving or remaining trustee or trustees of the said trust, or a majority of them, if he or they shall think proper to appoint the person or persons so nominated; and in case of an equal division of the votes of the trustees present at any meeting of the trustees held for the purpose of such appointment, the minister so in charge of the said circuit or station shall have a casting vote in such appointment: Provided always, that no such consent as aforesaid shall be given while any vacancies remain unfilled, nor shall the trustees consent to the resignation of more than one trustee by any one vote: Provided also, that notwithstanding the withdrawal by a trustee from his membership in the said Church, his powers and liabilities as a trustee shall not cease unless his place in the trust shall be declared vacant by a two-thirds vote of the remaining trustees, which declaration it shall be in their power to make, on their being convinced that he has withdrawn as aforesaid, provided that no prior vacancy remain then unfilled, and provided that not more than one vacancy shall be declared by any one vote; and if at any time it shall be deemed advisable to increase the number of trustees to a number greater than that appointed hereby, not exceeding twenty-one, then the person or persons whom it is desired to appoint as such new trustee or trustees shall be nominated and appointed as is next hereinbefore provided for the filling of vacancies; and if it shall

happen at any time that there shall be no surviving or remaining trustee of the said trust, in every such case it shall and may be lawful for the minister aforesaid to nominate, and the quarterly meeting of the circuit or station, if they approve of the person or persons so nominated, to appoint, the requisite number of the trustees of the said trust, by the vote of the majority of the members of the said meeting then present; and in case of an equal division of their votes, the chairman of the said meeting shall have the casting vote in such appointment, and the person or persons so nominated and appointed trustee or trustees in either of the said modes of nomination and appointment shall be the legal successor or successors, co-trustee or co-trustees, of the said above-named trustees, and shall have, in perpetual succession, the same capacities, powers, rights, duties, estates and interests as are given to the above-named trustees in and by these presents, and in and by any Statute or Statutes which may, for the time being, be in force affecting the same.

22. To fix quorum, &c.

22. It is hereby declared that a majority of the said trustees shall form a quorum, all having been duly notified; and when a majority or two-thirds vote may be required for any purpose, it shall be held to mean a majority or two-thirds, as the case may be, of any such meeting.

23. To fix time for placing financial statement before quarterly official meeting.

23. A full and acurate financial statement, duly audited, shall be laid before the first quarterly official meeting after the first day of January in each year.

APPENDIX V.

A Digest of Judicial Decisions and Interpretations of Law, Not Modified by Subsequent Legislation, as Given by the Court of Appeal, the General Superintendent's Court of Appeal, and in the Rulings of the Presidents of Annual Conferences Reported to, and Approved by the Action of, the General Conference, from the Union in 1883 to 1902.

I. *General Conference.*

1. An appeal against any legislation of the General Conference cannot be entertained by the Court of Appeal. (Journal 1898, p. 279, par. 8; also p. 286.)

II. *General Conference Special Committee.*

2. The General Conference Special Committee has not jurisdiction to entertain complaints of ministers or members which involve the protection of their individual rights and privileges within the Church. (Journal 1902, p. 308.)

III. *Annual Conference.*

3. An Annual Conference on finding a minister guilty of an offence "expressly forbidden by the Word of God

and sufficient to exclude from the kingdom of grace and glory" has no discretionary power to attach some other penalty than that ordered by Discipline. (Journal 1890, p. 175, par. 2.)

4. When an Annual Conference finds a minister guilty of an offence "expressly forbidden by the Word of God, and sufficient to exclude from the kingdom of grace and glory," the President is not at liberty to entertain a motion in amendment of the sentence required by Discipline. (Journal 1890, p. 176, par. 7.)

5. An Annual Conference exceeds its jurisdiction when it indefinitely postpones passing a proper sentence upon an offender. (Journal 1890, p. 176, par. 6.)

6. An Annual Conference cannot expel a minister under charges without pronouncing upon his guilt. (Journal 1894, p. 253, par. 6.)

7. Ministers appointed to Connexional offices, though not in the pastorate, are in the "active work." (Journal 1890, p. 175, par. 4.)

8. Evangelists and College Presidents are in the "active work" in the sense of laymen being entitled to represent them in the District Meeting. (Journal 1902, p. 312.)

9. An Annual Conference has power to settle disputes between two or more congregations within its boundaries. (Journal 1890, p. 253, par. 5.)

10. Women cannot be admitted as lay delegates to membership in an Annual Conference. (Journal 1894, p. 253, par. 3.)

11. An Annual Conference cannot receive into full Connexion and admit to ordination any candidate who has

not previously fulfilled the requirements of Discipline as to the term of probation and examinations. (Journal 1894, p. 254, par. 10.)

12. An extra-disciplinary contract made between a Minister and the Ministerial Session of his Conference cannot supersede the operation of Discipline in determining his standing or relation. (Journal 1898, p. 278, par. 4.)

13. The constitutionality of the law of location is affirmed. (Journal 1898, p. 279, par. 9.)

14. An Annual Conference cannot so place the name of a minister on the station list as to deprive him both of supernumerary allowance and of circuit pay without his request. (Journal 1898, p. 283, par. 1.)

15. Permission to be, and remain, without a circuit to engage in Connexional work can be granted by the Annual Conference in ministerial session only. (Journal 1898, p. 284, par. 4.)

16. "Travelling," in the disciplinary sense, and time allowance for studies are separate and different things. (Journal 1898, p. 284, par. 5.)

17. The phrase "on a circuit for three years" in a disciplinary sense is different from "travelling three years." (Journal 1898, p. 284, par. 7.)

18. Funds raised ostensibly for ministerial support, but actually for the Superannuation Fund, must be marked in the Conference schedules as being raised for the Superannuation Fund. (Journal 1898, p. 284, par. 6.)

19. Districts in electing laymen to the Annual Conference are not bound to elect only those within the bounds of their own district. (Journal 1898, p. 285, par. 11.)

20. An Annual Conference exceeds its jurisdiction when it refuses to consider the cases of candidates for the ministry properly recommended by a District Meeting. (Journal 1902, p. 306.)

21. An Annual Conference, in the examination of ministerial standing, exceeds its jurisdiction when it employs extra-disciplinary methods in contravention of sufficient procedure already provided. (Journal 1902, p. 307.)

22. An Annual Conference exceeds its jurisdiction when it grants a certificate of standing to a probationer who has desisted irregularly from the work. (Journal 1902, p. 307.)

23. An Annual Conference exceeds its jurisdiction when it grants credentials to a minister respecting whom the usual questions in the District Meeting concerning his moral and religious character were not answered in the disciplinary sense. (Journal 1902, p. 307.)

24. An Annual Conference exceeds its jurisdiction when it receives a candidate, who, at the time of his reception on probation, had not completed his preliminary course of study. (Journal 1902, p. 310.)

IV. *Stationing Committee.*

25. A Stationing Committee cannot transfer appointments from one circuit to another unless the previous disciplinary requirements have been complied with. (Journal 1894, p. 254, par. 7.)

26. No names of persons other than those of ministers and probationers can appear on the Annual Conference station lists. (Journal 1898, p. 283, par. 3.)

V. *Quarterly Board.*

27. Adjourned meetings of the Quarterly Official Board are legal. (Journal 1890, p. 252, last paragraph.)

VI. *Class Leaders.*

28. The appointment of a Class Leader takes effect immediately upon being made. (Journal 1902, p. 306.)

VII. *Trustee Board.*

29. Trustees may use their ordinary revenue to engage musicians for religious worship. (Journal 1898, p. 278, par. 1.)

30. A Trustee meeting convened by the call of two trustees, notice having been served on the Superintendent of the Circuit and on all the other trustees, is legal. (Journal 1902, p. 309.)

VIII. *Division of a Circuit.*

31. The transfer of an appointment from one circuit to another is a division of a circuit. (Journal 1902, p. 308.)

IX. *Superannuation Fund.*

32. No minister can exempt himself from payment to the Superannuation Fund. (Journal 1890, p. 253, par. 1.)

33. A minister is personally responsible for the circuit deficit on the Superannuation Fund, notwithstanding the fact that the total payments of the Conference may have equalled or exceeded the total amount required from all the circuits. (Journal 1902, p. 311.)

X. *Supernumerary Fund.*

34. The Supernumerary Fund, with its administration, is under the control of the General Conference and its Courts. (Journal 1902, p. 310.)

XI. *Administration of Discipline.*

35. A superintendent of a circuit has not discretionary power to refuse a proper letter of standing from another superintendent if presented within the twelve months specified in the Discipline. (Journal 1898, p. 278, par. 3.)

36. A new superintendent of a circuit is not bound to receive charges which, under a previous superintendent, had been tried, and respecting which the committee had failed to agree upon a decision. (Journal 1898, p. 282.)

37. Acceptance by a superintendent of a circuit of a resignation of membership, though afterwards withdrawn, is not equivalent to expulsion from the Church without charges. (Journal 1898, p. 283, par. 2.)

38. Charges are vitiated through want of definiteness in specifications as to times and places. (Journal 1894, p. 253, par. 2.)

39. When the superintendent of a circuit would have been the proper person to preside at a trial had he not been disqualified, the chairman of the district is not bound to appoint another chairman of a district to preside, but is entitled to appoint another superintendent of a circuit. (Journal 1898, p. 284, par. 8.)

40. When the senior Chairman of an Annual Conference presides over a Committee of Chairmen in a trial of the President of the Conference, the said senior Chairman

sits as the President of Conference for that occasion. (Journal 1902, p. 308.)

41. A charge against an ordained minister received on probation since the first enactment of the law found in par. 166, sec. 2, of the Discipline of 1898 for the use of tobacco, must be entertained. (Journal 1902, p. 308.)

42. A charge against a presiding officer, of maladministration in the conduct of a trial, must be entertained. (Journal 1902, p. 309.)

43. When charges and an appeal are in progress, and the original case is unsettled, another party cannot prefer the same charges in the absence of, and without the knowledge or consent of the original complainant. (Journal 1902, p. 311.)

44. Appeal to the President of a Conference from a Chairman of a District is not barred merely on the ground of the former being a brother of the latter, and therefore supposed to be "interested" in the appeal. (Journal 1902, p. 310.)

APPENDIX VI.

RULES OF ORDER.

1. The President shall take the chair at the hour to which the Conference may stand adjourned, and cause the same to be opened by the reading of the Scriptures, singing and prayer.

2. The roll of the members of the General Conference, as certified by the President and the Secretary of the constituent Conferences, shall be called immediately after the opening of the first session.

3. The following shall be the order of business:

(1) Reading the Minutes of preceding session.
(2) Communications.
(3) Memorials.
(4) Reports of Standing Committees.
(5) Reports of Special Committees.
(6) Motions of which notice has been previously given.
(7) Notices of motions.
(8) Questions of which notice has been given.
(9) Miscellaneous.

4. On the call for Reports of Committees, all Reports that are ready shall be called in before action is taken on any one of them.

5. The President shall decide all questions of order,

subject to an appeal to the Conference; but in case of such appeal the question shall be taken without debate. When a member rises to a point of order, or the President calls any member to order, in either case the point of order shall be distinctly stated.

6. No member shall remain standing during debate, except the member addressing the President.

7. The President shall nominate all Committees not otherwise specially ordered by the Conference.

8. When a motion is moved and seconded, or a report is presented and is read by the Secretary or stated by the President, it shall be deemed in possession of the Conference; nor shall any motion be withdrawn by the mover after being debated, without the consent of the Conference.

9. All motions shall be presented in writing by the proposer.

10. The following motions are not debatable:

a. For the previous question.

b. To lay on the table.

c. For indefinite adjournment.

d. For indefinite postponement.

11. No new motion shall be entertained until the one under consideration is disposed of, which may be done by adoption or rejection, unless one of the following motions shall intervene, which motions shall have the precedence in the order in which they are placed, viz.:

a. Adjournment.

b. Lay on the table.

c. Indefinite postponement.

d. Postponement to a given time.

e. Reference to a Committee.

f. Amendment.

g. Amendment to the amendment.

12. When any member is about to speak in debate or deliver any matter to the Conference, he shall rise and address the President, and shall proceed only when the President announces his name.

13. No person shall speak more than once on the same question without leave of the Conference, except the mover, who shall be entitled to a general reply.

14. No person shall speak more than ten minutes at one time without leave of the Conference, which shall be granted or refused without debate.

15. Any member who voted in the majority may move a reconsideration of a resolution. A motion to reconsider may be carried by a majority. This may be done during the session in which it was passed; but if done at any other time a notice of motion for reconsideration must be given at the session immediately preceding that in which the vote for reconsideration is to be taken. A resolution may be reconsidered once only.

16. A motion to adjourn shall always be in order.

17. Motions relating to the rights and privileges of the Conference, or of individual members, and orders of the day, shall be considered questions of privilege.

18. The previous question being moved, the President shall put it at once by asking, "Shall the vote be now taken?" If the previous question is carried, all debate shall cease save the right of reply on the part of the mover of the original motion, and after the mover shall have replied the President shall proceed to take the vote on the several motions before the Conference.

19. No member shall absent himself from the sessions of the Conference without leave, unless he be sick or unable to attend.

20. No member who is not within the bar when any question is put by the President shall be allowed to vote on such question, except by leave of Conference.

21. Before the President rises to put a motion to the Conference, he shall ask, "Is the Conference ready for the question?" No member shall speak after the President has risen to put the question; and all members present shall vote unless excused by the Conference.

22. No member shall be interrupted when speaking, except by the President, to call him to order when he departs from the question, or uses personalities or disrespectful language; but any member may call the attention of the President when he deems the speaker out of order, and any member may explain if he is misrepresented.

23. No business shall pass from individuals to the Committees without reference through the Conference.

24. Any member may call for the yeas and nays on any question before the Conference, provided he be sustained by twenty members. Any member may require that the number of votes for and against a resolution be announced.

25. When yeas and nays are ordered in relation to any motion, they shall be taken at that session of the Conference.

26. In the General Conference fifty members shall constitute a quorum.

27. The Secretary shall provide a bulletin, upon which

announcements of meetings of committees, and relating to other Conference business may be made.

28. Members presenting memorials, petitions and other papers for reference, shall prepare the paper by writing in a plain hand on the back of it the following items in the following order, viz.:—(1) Subject to which it relates. (2) Name of the member presenting it, and the Conference to which he belongs, or the name of the body sending it, as the case may be. (3) Name of Committee to which the Conference refers it. Papers thus presented shall be delivered to the Secretary of the Conference, and by him sent to the Committee according to endorsement.

29. A motion consisting of two or more distinct propositions shall, if a call for its sub-division be sustained by two members of the Conference, be subdivided into two or more sections, and the vote shall be taken on each section separately.

30. In all cases in which an amendment of the Discipline is moved, the motion shall be so framed as to show the form in which the section or paragraph, as the case may be, will stand when amended.

31. Committees reporting changes in the Discipline shall so frame their reports as to show how the section or paragraph, as the case may be, will stand after the changes shall have been made.

32. When a motion is submitted, it may be amended, and an amendment to the amendment is also in order. In case the amendment to the amendment be rejected, it is in order to propose other amendments to the amendment, which shall be disposed of one by one. When these have

been voted on, if one be adopted, the vote shall then be taken on the amendment thus amended, and if it be adopted the discussion may proceed, and other amendments to the main motion as thus amended are then in order. When all amendments have been disposed of, the motion as then before the Conference shall be voted on.

33. When any committee shall ascertain that a subject which has been referred to it has also been referred to another committee, it shall promptly report the fact to the Conference, and the Conference shall decide which committee shall have permanent charge of said subject.

34. The principles of procedure as set forth in Croker's Manual of "Parliamentary Procedure" shall govern the proceedings of this body, subject to the special rules which have been or may be adopted.

APPENDIX VII.

FORMS OF PROCEDURE.

Form 1.—Complaint.

THE METHODIST CHURCH.

.....*Conference.*

.....*District.*

.....*Circuit.*

In the matter of

A. B., *Complainant,*

and C. D., *Defendant.*

I, A. B. (a member, minister, or as the fact may be), of the Church on the ..... Circuit, hereby charge that the said C. D. (a minister or member, as the fact may be), of the Church upon.....Circuit, on or about the.... day of.....A.D. 189.. at (here put in the time and place at which the offence charged was committed), did (here state the offence; if the charge is one of false teaching, give as nearly as possible the words, and if they were repeated, give the other times and places, the object being to give him the best information as to what he is accused of, and when and where it is alleged he committed the offence).

I charge that this is an offence against the law of God (or the rules or Discipline of the Church, as the case may be).

And I hereby request you to take the proper steps to bring the said C. D. to trial.

Yours, etc.,

To.....

.....

Form 2.—Notice to Person Accused.

(Full formal heading as in form 1.)

I, E. F., Superintendent of the above Circuit (*or* Chairman of the above District, *or* President of the above Conference), hereby give you notice that a complaint, a true copy of which is hereto annexed, has been laid against you.

Further, take notice that I have selected and summoned a committee for the trial of such complaint, and that the said committee will meet for the taking of evidence upon and considering of said complaint at (house where the Committee will sit) on .....day, the ..... day of .....18.. at the hour of.....o'clock in the..... noon.....and that if you have any evidence or matter to produce in your behalf it will then be heard.

(Place and date.)

Yours, etc.,

To..... .....

Form 3.—Finding of Committee.

(Full formal heading as in form 1.)

The Committee selected and summoned to try the charges in this matter, having assembled at the time and place appointed for such trial, were thereupon attended by the said complainant *[1] and the said defendant *[2]; and having heard the evidence adduced by the respective parties, and what was alleged by them and on their behalf, we (the names of the Committee, or, if not unanimous, then the names of those who agree), the said

Committee (*or* the majority of the said Committee) find :— That none of the said charges are sustained and proved, and that the defendant is not guilty, *or* that the said charges are sustained and proved, and that the said defendant is guilty of the offences laid therein, *or* that the first charge is sustained and proved, and that the defendant is guilty of the offences laid therein.

As to the other charges, we find that they are not sustained and proved, and upon them we find that the defendant is not guilty.

(The charges and specifications submitted, and the findings thereon, shall be specified clearly, and in detail. If the defendant is found guilty upon any charge, add the appropriate penalty.)

The said offence of which we find the said defendant guilty is, in our judgment, such as is expressly forbidden by the Word of God, and sufficient to exclude a person from the kingdom of grace and glory, and we hereby suspend him (in case of a minister or probationer) until the Annual Conference shall finally dispose of the case. (If the defendant be a member, other than a minister or a probationer, follow the form down to the*, then say) until the delay allowed for appeal has expired.

Given under our hands at.....this.....day of .....190..(all signing in the presence of each other).

In case of less grave offences, omit the paragraph beginning "The said offence," and say: And we adjudge that the said defendant be admonished (*or* whatever the sentence may be).

Given under our hands at.....this.....day of .....190..(all signing in the presence of each other).

Certificate of presiding officer to be written below the copy of decision, which must be served upon each party within three days.

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of the decision of the Committee in the above matter.

X. Y., *Presiding Officer.*

Form 3a.—Where defendant does not appear.

(Same as Form 3 down to first *, then insert)—but the said defendant did not, nor did any person on his behalf, attend before us, although duly served with notice in that behalf, as by evidence in writing now among the records of this matter appears; and having heard the evidence adduced on behalf of the complainant, we find (etc., as in Form 3).

Form 3b.—Where defendant pleads guilty.

(Same as in Form 3 down to the second *.)

And the defendant having pleaded guilty to the charges in this matter (*or* to No. .... and No. .... of the charges in this matter), we find him guilty of the offences mentioned in said charges, No. .... etc. (From here proceed as in Form 3.)

Form 3c.—Where charges are amended.

(Same as in Form 3 down to second *.)

The charges laid and served in this matter having been amended so as to read as follows, that is to say: (here insert the charges as they are finally settled).

And the defendant having been allowed proper opportunity to meet said amended charges, we proceeded to hear the evidence adduced, etc. (as in Form 3).

Form 4.—Notice of decision.

(Full formal heading as in Form 1.)

Take notice, that annexed hereto is a copy, certified by me, of the decision of the Committee in this matter, which decision was pronounced on the day it bears date.

Yours, etc.,

.....

Toronto, June ...., 189..

To the above complainant.

Also another

To the above defendant.

(This must be sent to each party within three days after the decision is given.)

Form 5.—Notice of Appeal from decision of Committee.

(Full formal heading as in Form 1.)

Take notice that I do hereby appeal from the decision of the Committee in this matter to ..... on the following, amongst other grounds:—

(The following are given as showing how grounds of appeal should be drawn.)

1. That said decision is against law and evidence and the weight of evidence.

2. That the said Committee was not properly constituted.

3. That I was not allowed to be present when the witnesses, or some or one of them, were being examined.

4. That evidence was taken in my absence, although the Committee well knew that I intended to be present and that I was unavoidably absent, and that, when I appeared,

the Committee refused to recall witnesses so examined in my absence.

5. That the members of said Committee consulted with and listened to the complainant and his witnesses before and after the said trial, and when I was not present.

6. That the presiding officer so conducted said trial as to interfere with the liberty of judgment of said Committee.

And I claim the right to add to and vary the grounds of my appeal as I may be advised.

Form 6.—Resolution of Annual Conference on an Appeal from Committee.

Moved by.....seconded by.....

That having heard the appeal of the complainant (*or* defendant) from the decision of the Committee in the matter of A. B., complainant, and C. D., defendant, and considered the charges, proceedings, evidence and decisions therein, this Conference resolves that the said defendant is—*or* is not guilty of the offence (or offences) as found in said decision, *or* modify the findings of the decision as the Conference may think right—guilty of the offence (or offences) as found in the said decision; and that such offence (or offences) is (*or* are) such as is expressly forbidden by the Word of God, and is sufficient to exclude a person from the kingdom of grace and glory; be it therefore further resolved that the said C. D. be deposed from the ministry and expelled from the Church, and he is hereby declared to be so deposed and expelled.

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Cls. assess

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paid

Val. at annual dist. mtg.

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38 = 1/10 = 10%

32 Present

Class 8th. = 24th Meeting

Yearly Cl.

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